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THE WEST COAST

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Corel's Michael Cowpland and wife Marilyn



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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE
JULY 17, 1995
VOL. 130 NO. 29

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Making millions

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12 Fresh from battling the Spanish fleet over the fate of the Atlantic halibut, Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin turns his fire on Alaskan fishermen — who, he says, are endangering salmon stocks that swim through Alaskan waters before returning to spawn in B.C. rivers. The Americans, however, may prove to be tough adversaries.

Bones of contention

38 As Italy bounces more into middle and old age, the number of Canadians who suffer from osteoporosis is sure to rise. Recent research, however, has left doctors divided about how best to fight the degenerative bone disease



LETTERS

Beneath the skin

I would like to affirm your national survey Canada that faced a quiet, yet deep, passion for this country ("A quiet passion," *Comix*, July 1). At a 1994 Canada Day celebration in Mississauga, Ont., a group of us from the nonprofit volunteer Video Production Association interviewed passersby with one question: "What does Canada mean to you?" We were stunned at how strongly and willingly people responded with deep, heartfelt appreciation for this country. What I personally learned echoes what you found—that just beneath the skin, where the Canadian reservoir, there lives a deep love of country.

Mark Woodard,
Ottawa, Ont.

What a coincidence to arrive home from a camping trip to find five week's *Weekend* devoted largely to Canada's national parks ("The crown jewels"). We had just spent four nights at Pfeiffer, Ban National Park on Van couver Island, and we would have loved to have stayed longer, but it cost a whopping \$20 per night (as compared with \$12 to \$15 in provincial parks). And that's not all: the camping fee does not cover the \$1 per day parking cost at the park's other attractions. Camping next to be the affordable family holiday, and if national parks were truly established for the people of Canada to use and enjoy, then perhaps Parks Canada should think twice before being the hand that feeds a few.

Victoria Allen,
Duncan, B.C.

I loved Rick Salvo's essay, "A plea for Canada," including its positive solutions. I visited around the world before moving to Canada five years ago, and I think the most



Canada Day celebration: deep, heartfelt appreciation for the country

problem in this country is that Canadians—excluding Salvo—want to have all the advantages of a high standard of living along with universal medicare, and a very green, eco-environmental conscience, plus and old age pension. They do not understand that these things do not go together without working harder, longer and more effectively.

Don J. van Wyk,
Nanaimo Bay, B.C.

You could have conducted this type of poll in any country, such as France, Great Britain or even the United States and got a similar result. It would have been interesting to have a few questions on unemployment and taxes.

Marcus Fyfe,
Pembroke, Ont.

Channelling horror

Given that the majority of the coverage of the Paul Bernardo trial is based on vile, lurid, and often with a public mystique, it was refreshing to come across your profiles of Dan Hickey and Bob Wertheim ("What can we do? Where can we go?" *Comix*, June 26). These two fathers, who have set up systems for channelling the complex emotions generated by hearing such facts into proactive fund-raising pro-

grams, confirmed that a humane response to such inhumanity is possible. I respectfully suggest, however, that you should have not Hickey and Wertheim as the cover and Bernado and his co-wife somewhere in the middle of the magazine.

Christopher Reed,
Nelson

Partisan ghost

In reference to your historical note "The 1st who asked to die" (*History*, June 26), you may be interested to know that the spirit of Maclean's King once declined to talk to the *Living*. The late Roland Maclean, when he was speaker of the House of Commons in the 1920s, had the use of Kingsmere, the Ottawa-area estate that King had bequeathed to the federal government. In 1962, at Kingsmere as the 15th anniversary of King's death, Maclean, members of his family and lawmakers, including Jay, held a session with the Ojibwa band located on the premises. But the plebeians would not agree. Our infinite raised questions. Had we observed all of the appropriate rituals? Or had the former Liberal prime minister simply refused to be manacled to his own house to chat with a Tory speaker?

D. G. Robe,
Pembroke, B.T.

I copied your article on the 1950s, but must correct a small error ("Maclean's and the 1950s"). You state that "no modern home was complete without a TV and a stereo." Stereophonic sound was not introduced until the very end of the decade, and only became popular in the 1960s. In the 1950s, a was loud, or high-fidelity, sound that was the thing.

Douglas Abel,
Fort McMurray, Alta.

Maclean's sometimes requires silence, but letters may be edited for space and clarity. Please supply correct address and daytime telephone number when letters to the editor (Maclean's magazine, 227 King St. Toronto, Ont. M5T 1A7) Fax: (416) 593-7238. E-mail: info@maclean.ca or 24242.2247@maclean.ca

behind this symbol of quality

Quality Control Superstore - Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Ltd. - Guelph, Ontario

This symbol of quality identifies Canadian dairy products. And behind this symbol, there's also Ann Roberts. Having been a part of Gay Lea Foods for almost 18 years now, Ann ensures the overall quality and freshness of their dairy products. But she's certainly not the only one checking. In fact, the dairy industry has always complied with Canada's very high standards of quality, which helps ensure that our dairy products are as fresh and delicious as they can be.

Lessons in mistrust

It was only recently that I began to understand the wider impact of those horrible crimes for which Paul Bernardo is being tried. Returning from an evening out with my wife, I saw a nurse across a young woman (back-to-back) walking her dog. Because it appeared to be of a similar breed to our own dog, we stopped the car to ask her if it in fact was the same. With reasonable trepidation, she said yes and quickly moved on. At that moment, it dawned on me that this young girl's faith in the decency of a fellow human being was gone. It made

me recall a time when I was eight or nine years old and had bought a large ophioid-like ice-cream cone. Before I tasted it, it fell from my hands upside down on the roadway. No sooner had the tears begun to well up in my eyes, then a man I had never seen before took pity on my plight and gave me another quarter. I will never forget his act of kindness, but I couldn't help but think that if this had occurred today, I, like the young girl, would have been taught to mistrust the actions and intentions of any stranger, no matter how harmless. This is the tragedy of our children's world.

Jan Hansen,
Wilmette, Ont.

This symbol identifies Canadian dairy products. Look for it!



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AN AMERICAN VIEW



The trouble with celebrity worship

BY FRED BRUNING

So now Michael Jackson is a social ascendant. Here we see demystified one of the most baffling of American cultural enigmas. Someone writes 30 million records or makes a movie that costs the sky-the-limit, or, in Jackson's case, achieves legendary status as a high-tech trendsetter, and that person naturally assumes he is a philosopher king. Thus coddle not the ego man. Long live him! Long live celebrity! No one respects a trait or values a weakness or the things any more. They are reflex from another era—linear hold-outs in a digital time. You won't heavy thinking, you now turn to a shawbe genius like Michael Jackson. And what do you get from Michael on, say, the vexing subject of ethnic stereotyping? You get a new album called *HIStory* with lyrics like these:

*You see, you see,
Everybody do me,
Kick me, kick me,
Don't you kick me where me.*

There what happens? People yell that the poor guy is anti-white, that he is an incoherent slob, that he has committed an indecipherable crime against good behavior. As we all know, Jackson has had more than his share of anger problems—from complaints that he hit his son with a little boy who stayed overnight. So, being so wise, Jackson was quick to retract from his bold statement on the complexities of racial discrimination.

Yes, that's the problem, he didn't mean to let anyone. He was denouncing racism not endorsing it. Come on, guys, don't you get it?

Sorry, America did not get it. Clumsy again, Jackson promised to huddle back in the studio and record a new acceptable version of the song. *They Don't Care About Us*. When he is finished, no one will have any thing to complain about—except perhaps those pathetic fools who still think words

should convey some sort of meaning. "Strike me, you see" is the subtitle Jackson is considering. "Kick me like me."

It is difficult to see exactly what has been accomplished. If Jackson was sincere about his desire to reduce group tension in the United States, and if he doubts the original lyrics somehow succeeded in doing that—well, the singer should have stood his ground. By backtracking, Jackson seems to be either acknowledging an ugly racist streak or confessing that he is an amateur. In statements, Jackson gives the impression he views himself as serious but gay, our hero. Mainly he seems like a fellow who wants to get off the hook and get on with business.

The problem is, we just can't leave it at that. Americans have this thing about adoration. We insist upon making stars part of the locale. We want them to speak to us directly and, by all means, have something expert to say. Diving celebrities to such heights, we leave them giddy and inclined to build on. Next thing you know they say stupid things and we act betrayed. Maybe Michael Jackson has learned a lesson. His solution? Probably not.

Listening to the wrong voices has become

a national pastime. Otherwise we would not have cared what Michael thinks about Jews, blacks, whites or anything else. Nor would we any longer be Barbie Steward on pillows or Charles Barkley on the subject of role models. Just Toni's only son during the Vietnam War was sounding like a schoolyard when she tumbled against the war. Stars, celebrities occasionally are politically naive. Most of the time they are just celebrities.

Michael Jackson? Sure being a child star Jackson has devoted himself to the oceanous realm of great wealth. He lives in a mansion removed from the world. He may be a gay man, or he may not. But a student of the forces that have shaped the 20th century? A sage who can solve the racial riddle of America? A person deeply at ease with his own race? Come on.

Such people are available, of course. The poet Maya Angelou, say, or the novelist John Updike, or the educator and priest Theodore M. Hesburgh of Notre Dame University, or the vaudeville Irishman, or the pastor Jack Lawrence, who chaired the movement of black Americans from south to north in the 1960s. There was a comedian by the name of Leroy Brown who made a significant contribution, albeit in an odd way. In one of his most provocative bits, Brown, now deceased, repeated the word "nigger" over and over. By the time he finished, Brown had dimmed that hideous term, rendered it less a dead and defiled, useless. If someone had ordered Leroy Brown to repeat, he would have said them to get lost—so easy.

Substance is missing from public discourse these days, that is the problem. Around the same time as the Jackson fiasco, another well-publicized episode occurred in the upscale suburban town of Greenwich, Conn. Five high-school seniors were banned from graduation because they wrote an encrypted message in the yearbook that said: "Kill all niggers." The prank plunged the community into a spasm of self-censorship. How could something so innocuous happen in a decent place like Greenwich? These devil things go on? Let's take a guess. First, about the Greenwich which got in trouble, the vast all of America does—by mistaking success for substance and allowing nonsense to masquerade as truth. The triumph of trivia is high upon us.

So what is gained by sending Michael Jackson to the state or reverting to the Greenwich debacle—which in fact is what the school has done? To enlighten rarely comes so easily. Michael Jackson intended to make a useful statement with his song but lacked the sophistication. Remember, this is a guy who once started a fire by merging a playground fire truck in a movie video. The Greenwich school? Let's say they were playing for cheap laughs in a mostly white community and got suggested by their own absurdity. The town could use counseling and a summer without movies or television—and, like Michael Jackson, a lengthy introduction to the work of Leroy Brown.

THE WEST COAST WAR

Canada's fisheries minister takes aim at Alaska's fleet

BY CHRIS WOOD

This time there was no screaming fishnet artfully draped in the background, nor underwater Atlantic turbid painted slat to dramatize the perils of the rocky 58th. Brian Tobin's rhetoric last week had a familiar ring to it, as the kindly-looking fishery minister sat before a row of Canadian flags in Ottawa's official press theatre and—verbosely at least—drew a line in the waves in defence of the national interest. The waves, on this occasion, were in the Pacific Ocean. And the national interest: the regulatory schools of salmon that swim through the Alaskan waters before swimming to spawn in British Columbia, where they are the mainstay of a \$1-billion fishery. With the opening of the 1995 salmon season just two days away, Tobin said that Canada was seeking away from talks with U.S. officials aimed at setting quotas for this year's catch. He put the blame squarely on "the narrow, regional selfishness of the state of Alaska." Declaring Tobin "Alaska scuffed an agreement." There he added, with heavy emphasis: "This situation is not acceptable to the government of Canada. Canada will respond. And all options are on the table."

The exact form of retaliation, Tobin continued, would be spelled out this week, after he visits British Columbia to consult industry and provincial officials. Tobin was likely to hear little during his trip to the West Coast to encourage restraint. "We want Tobin, if he has to take action, to take action," asserted B.C. Fisheries minister David Axelsen. Added Denise Brown, a spokesman for the United Fisheries and Allied Workers' Union (UFAW), which represents 6,000 B.C. fisheries employees: "We have to get tougher than we have. We either stand up for ourselves as a country, or we lose it all." Still, it was equally plain that, in the United States, Tobin was courting a fight with an adversary far different from the raging flocks of Spanish and Portuguese fishermen which featured as his high profile, and much louder, confrontation last March over the Grand Banks turbot. This time, neither Canada's case nor its options are nearly so clear.

It is a case that hangs on the biology of salmon, the geography of the B.C. coast and a treaty that Canada and the United States signed in 1880. Like their Atlantic counterparts, Pacific salmon are born in inland rivers and migrate to the sea. They spend years there growing fat and valuable before returning to the rivers of their birth to lay and fertilize



Tobin: "This situation is not acceptable to the government. Canada will respond. And all options are on the table."

the eggs of a new generation of fish after which the adults die. It is for this highly predictable return trip that salmon are caught in their millions by fishermen from Alaska, British Columbia and the lower U.S. states of Washington and Oregon. It is geographically, however, which gives the Alaskans a critical advantage over their rivals, most salmon returning to spawn in Canadian rivers first strike the commercial coast to the north of their eventual destination, in the rivers of the Alaska

panhandle. As they swim south, the salmon run a gauntlet of Alaskan fishing nets long before they encounter any British Columbia boats.

That fact is recognized in the 1985 Canada-U.S. Pacific Salmon Treaty, which includes a provision intended to guarantee catches for each country "equivalent to the production of salmon originating in its waters." The trouble, according to Canadian experts, is that the Alaskans have taken advantage of their favorable geography to not catch their consistently exceed their fair share under the so-called "equity principle" of the treaty. This means, Canada maintains, amounts to as many as 4.5 million fish a year, worth nearly \$70 million. "In terms of the equity principle, we are being cheated," says Vancouver-based fisheries economist Patrick Gopes. B.C. fishermen, whose grievances against the Alaskans began predate the 1985 pact, agree. Byrdell, Edgar Birch, a former fisherman based in Delta, 30 km south of Vancouver, contends, "It has only gotten worse since we signed the treaty."

The breaking point for Canada came, Tobin said last week, when Alaska would not agree to reduce its catch of chinook salmon below 230,000 fish. Although by far the least plentiful of five major salmon species, the chinook are nonetheless significant. At up to 60 lb each, chinook are the largest salmon in the sea. That has made them the most highly prized target of sport fishermen willing to spend hundreds of dollars on guides and equipment in order to hook one of the silver fish. The chinook are also the most valuable of the Pacific salmon, with some estimates placing the stocks at barely 10 per cent of 1980 levels. (Observers University of British Columbia fisheries biologist Peter Pense: "It's worth going to bat for.") Tobin claimed to be doing just that. Declaring that "the needs of the fish are foremost," Tobin said that Canada would understate its role of chinook by half in

1995. Those cuts he added, will be enforced by beefing-up air and sea law patrol of Canadian fleets.

But last week, various Alaskans challenged the Canadian view on almost every point. "I want to emphasize that Canada has withdrawn from the negotiations, not Alaska," said Kevin Duffy, the state's commissioner on a panel established under the 1985 treaty to monitor northern salmon issues. Duffy added that Alaska considers Canada's interpretation of the treaty's equity principle as "in-law and not in-fact," Alaska Governor Jay Byrd, addressing a news conference in Anchorage two days after Tobin's, was dismissive of the fisheries minister's heated rhetoric. "You always want to take political comments with a grain of salt," he said. In Washington, meanwhile, Alaska's senior U.S. senator, Ted Stevens, issued a thinly veiled warning of his own against precipitate Canadian action. "Just neighbors," he declared, "usually get the best of their own choices."

In fact, it was far from clear that Tobin would be able to match deeds to his tough words. Despite his promise of a "strategic and intelligent" response, the minister's options are limited. Some activists, including the UFAW's Brown, called on Canada to take stern action against Alaska, perhaps by restricting land access to the state via the Alaskan Highway, which passes through British Columbia and the Yukon. But many more fishermen were clearly concerned about what any such measures might achieve. Said one engineer on a Delta-based vessel preparing to leave port last week, "What are we going to do, go to war against the Americans? Not."

One possibility is an expanded version of the \$1,500 toll that Canada briefly imposed last year on U.S. fishing boats travelling through B.C. waters on their way from Washington state and Oregon to participate in the Alaskan fishery. The 1986 law achieved its immediate goal of bringing U.S. catchers back to the table to hammer out a one-year catch agreement. A new toll might be extended to cover the considerable freight and barge traffic that also travels through Canadian waters between ports in Alaska and the lower states.

Such a move, however, would proportionately most upend last week to be Tobin's strategy of attempting to isolate Alaska from its southern U.S. counterparts. Tobin noted that negotiators from the states of Washington and Oregon, as well as representatives of the U.S. salmon industry, had been written out of an agreement with Canada until talks broke off on June 30. "The Alaskans," he said, "have been saying to their fellow citizens in Washington and Oregon, 'Tough luck, we're going to end the treaty of grace—you'd on your own. I find that an appalling rejection of one citizen of the United States by another.'"

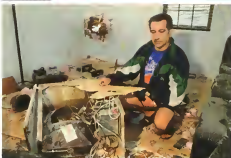
In Tobin's efforts to isolate Alaska from a still challenge in the United States capital, where the state's Republican congressional delegation is well-placed to counter any compensation the Clinton administration may feel at Alaska for provoking Canada to unilateral action. The salmon dispute has erupted at a time when the White House is eager to court the Republican-controlled Congress—and Alaska's Stevens chairs the Senate subcommittee on oceans and fisheries. The state's sole Representative, Dan Young, sits on the corresponding House subcommittee and is the chairman of its more powerful panel, the House committee on resources.

Still, British Columbia's estimated 35,000 active fisheries workers have little chance but to look to Tobin for leadership. And not all were pessimistic about the canny Newfoundlander's chances of starting down the Alaskan coast as he did the Spaniards. "He's the best fisheries minister we've seen in 20 years," said Birch. "He knows what he has to do."

Riding to victory in the fight over the mighty chinook, however, would plainly take more muscle, as well as skill, than doing the same over the tiny turbot. □

Strike: "He's the best fisheries minister we've seen in 20 years"





Messer in his damaged room: 'At first, I thought the whole house had exploded'

A violent turf war

Biker gangs may be behind a Montreal bomb

The crash of flying metal, 35 lb of jagged steel and lead, jolted André Messer awake a few minutes before 3 in the morning. It was into his house in the Montreal suburb of LaSalle, quaking a hole the size of a football in his living-room wall. Then, it crashed through a television set, bounced off a sofa and finally tumbled to rest not more than a couple of feet from the bedroom where the 35-year-old truck driver and his wife, Michelle, lay sleeping. "A lot further left and we were both gone," a still-shocked Messer said last week as he stood amid the debris scattered around the interior of his smoldering house. "At first, I thought the whole house had exploded. Now, I realize we're lucky to be alive."

Nobody was injured, but the quiet western suburb had apparently experienced another violent episode in a simmering turf war between rival Montreal motorcycle gangs that has claimed at least six lives since last fall. The explosion happened at the Montreal Vistas Community Police department's bomb squad was trying to police a home-made device that police had found in a stolen van parked at a shopping centre. The bomb was

discovered by the department's sub-gang unit, created several months ago to monitor an escalating war for control of the city's illegal drug trade between two local outfits: the Bandidos, a Hell's Angels affiliate, and the Rock Machine. For three weeks, members of the unit had kept watch on a van, stolen last January from McGill University, that had been left in the shopping mall parking lot.

When they finally approached the van on

The seized machine gun: 'enough to start a war'



Monday night, they realized that it contained a deadly arsenal: 120 sticks of dynamite, 50 detonators, a 30-caliber semi-automatic M1 rifle, two 12-gauge shot-off shotguns, four 300-caliber automatic machine pistols and a 700-watt fire-hydrant machine gun. The machine gun, capable of downing a low-flying aircraft, had a mounting bracket attached to its side and was bolted to a table top and chained to the four corners of the truck's interior. "There was enough equipment inside that truck to start a war," said police Lt. Norman Coulston.

The van also held the explosive devices, an automatic metal container packed with seven pounds of dynamite. But the south squad's disturbing explosion failed spectacularly as the specialists had a wheeled robot shoot a high-pressure jet of water at the device. Instead of defusing the bomb, as expected, the water set it off. The resulting blast demolished the 600-800 robot, shattering standard windows in the mall and scattered flying metal in all directions—enabling the blast that penetrated Messer's living room from first floor to basement level, well beyond the area the police had monitored.

By late last week, police had made no arrests in connection with the case, nor had they been able to trace any of the weapons found in the van. Officially, police spokesmen refused to speculate either of the two warring biker gangs in the after-Christmas raid. However, police spokesmen speculated that the earlier stolen Mervin van to have been used in the gang's battle over control of the drug traffic in Montreal.

The entire affair bears striking similarities to other incidents in the latter war. Last December, a 25-year-old Rock Machine member was killed when the stolen van he was driving suddenly exploded in the southern Montreal suburb of LaSalle. In January, another suspected biker died after a blast wrecked the stolen van he was driving in Saint-Jacques in Montreal's east end. In February, Montreal police found yet another stolen van packed with explosives in a garage used by the Hell's Angels. After police speculated publicly that the van was going to be used in an attack on the Rock Machine, a Hell's Angels hanger-on in Montreal's east end was threatened in what was widely interpreted as a Rock Machine response. If these past incidents are any guide to what happened last week in LaSalle, Montreal's biker war was far from over.

BARRY CASHIN in Montreal

A backroom victory

John Savage survives a leadership challenge

Academy Awards night it was not All the same, the packed Halifax meeting had buzzed with excitement last week as John Young, president of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party, accepted the scaled envelope from an announcer with the small local firm of Harrold Green.

Thirteen days earlier, provincial Quid had cast their ballots on whether to let Welsh-born physician John Savage step up as party leader and premier. When Young opened the envelope last week and announced that Savage had survived the challenge, that triggered both applause and raucous boos—underlining the deep rift the leadership issue has driven within Nova Scotia's ruling party. The man at the centre of the storm was all smiles as he stood victorious on the podium at the party's annual meeting. And in an interview an hour after a speech in which he made an impassioned plea for unity, Savage seemed anxious to put the one-month campaign to hold on to the premier's job behind him. "This is a genuine expression of Liberal support," he said. "People are being taught to understand this as a government that will do what it has to do. It's optimistic, however, toward to continue the fight."

In one sense, it was curious that Savage decided such internal dissent. The Liberals held 40 seats in the provincial legislature, compared with eight for the Conservatives and three for the NDP. Moreover, both opposition parties are currently leadershipless. That Savage's government has been beset by scandal, gaffes and an inability to deliver on its ambitious campaign promises—including vows to cut the provincial deficit without raising taxes. Last year Savage faced a revolt in his party. The union-opponents' government workers but wage rollbacks, as well as construction workers, angered by provincial legislation allowing non-union workers to operate before union members on Nova Scotia work sites. More than 2,000 unionists took to Liberal headquarters and vowed to vote against Savage in a leadership review originally scheduled for last October, but postponed by the party to give the pro-Savage forces a chance to regroup.

Adding to Savage's woes was his govern-

ment's decision to try to abolish Nova Scotia's deeply ingrained patronage system. He refused to fire Conservative government workers and replace them with Liberals, who had been denied jobs during 15 years of Tory rule prior to Savage's election in 1993. "There is no question," says Jack Graham, a Liberal



Savage: the underlined vote was 'a genuine expression of Liberal support'

leader and chairman of Savage's leadership campaign team, "that eight or nine months ago the premier would have faced a very hard time winning a leadership review."

Last week, the 53-year-old Savage not only laid his job, he had won a second victory when Liberals narrowly voted in favor of an amendment to the party constitution that eliminates mandatory leadership reviews for sitting premiers. But the victories came at a

cost. For one thing, his opponents had been glib and insistent that they would step in the attack in a strong campaign in the vote by Britain's Conservative caucus last week, the Nova Scotia Liberals decided not to announce the actual results. That unusual move provoked bitterness. Said union organizer Jon Bentley: "The election was fixed and a crooked deal from Day 1. We just gave up on it." As well, the campaign had cost the party more than \$100,000 and sapped its energy as Liberal organizations—aiming to avoid the embarrassment of watching a sitting premier delivered by special-interest groups—recruited pro-Savage members.

Savage said that his government can now get on with the business of the province. In the past, though, it has not always drawn rave reviews. Wage rollbacks angered civil servants—and last week drew the ire of the International Labour Organization, a United Nations agency, which offered to send a mission to Nova Scotia to improve the relationship between the government and its workers. A decision to allow casinos to open in Halifax and Sydney drew sharp criticism from church groups, churches and others. Health care reform was spelt a decision to step into on a new series of health care being built in the Westwood Valley in northeastern Nova Scotia. The province lost \$26 million in federal funding for the project after federal Supply and Services Minister David Dingwall directed the money to be paid a raid in his Cape Breton riding.

For all of that, Savage says the government has been doing a better job lately of setting its policies. Its record, he says, includes a balanced operating budget for 1995-1996, re-emerging health and education and reducing political patronage. But, he added, cuts of \$200 million in federal transfer payments over 1995 and 1996 mean the government must find more ways to save money without cutting services. "Life in the Legislature," he said, "and we must hold on to these values."

Despite those brave words, the prospect of being deposed by angry unionists and wage-hungry bankers for patronage jobs deeply shook the premier, and the party. "We would have been a laughingstock if the dissonant had won," declared Graham. Still, the leadership campaign served one good purpose for the party—preventing a dry run for the next election, which will probably be called in 1997. By then, Savage will be facing new and almost certain opponents: Tories and NDPers—and perhaps even younger Liberals to hold on to his job.

JOHN DEMONTE in Halifax



Morrison, waiting three years for a federal review

Brutal criminals, or victims?

What the jury heard was this: Vancouver's glitzy Selwyn Morrison had supplied guns and advice to an associate named Scott Farneth, so that Farneth could rob and kill nightclub owner Joseph Mulgrew in October, 1983. Most of the story came from Farneth himself, corroborated by Morrison's step-daughter, Denise. Largely on its strength, the jury said Morrison is prison for life in 1986. She will not be eligible for parole until 2008.

What the jury did not hear at Morrison's trial was that Farneth had told police months earlier in a statement never introduced in court. "I'm just telling nothing but lies for you," he said. But the jury knew that Denise Morrison was an active cocaine addict. In an affidavit dated March 28, 1982, she admitted that she had used the drug daily during her stepfather's trial and had in her testimony about his involvement in the murder. According to another affidavit, sworn by Denise's half brother, Kevin Morrison, in June 1984, Denise told her family that, after her trial, she reversed some cocaine from one of the detectives who had the case against her father. Still, despite those and other troubling disclosures, Morrison, who has always maintained his innocence, remains in custody at a minimum-security prison in Motung, B.C., 60 km

Critics say Ottawa is slow to review claims of wrongful convictions

east of Vancouver, more than three years after he first asked the justice minister Kim Campbell to allow him a new trial. Says the stoody, barrel-chested grandfather, 61, still and suffering from angina at times, "I just hope I live long enough to see happen."

Morrison's hope may be misplaced. The provision under which he has asked for a new trial, Section 690 of the Criminal Code, has become notorious among defence lawyers and courts alike for working with glacial slowness and doubtful impartiality. Calls for reform of the section date from 1980. A commission of inquiry into the wrongful murder conviction and 11-year imprisonment of Nova Scotia's Donald Marshall carried out then requires under Section 690 to delay all at the hands of the federal justice department and extended to an independent agency. But despite several high-profile wrongful conviction cases in the years since, and a backlog of pending applications under the most recent Ottawa's response has been as slow as its review of Marshall's conviction. Justice Minister Allan Rock cancelled in the House of Commons last October that "the 690 process can be improved" but as in his department acknowledge that life has changed.

As it stands, Section 690 empowers the federal judge minister to

order a new trial for anyone convicted on a indictable offence, or to refer the case to an appeal court. About 50 applicants a year avoid the section to seek new trials for various criminal offences, from assault to murder. Since the Marshall case, its most prominent use was in 1991 when Campbell sent the 38-year-old married convict of Saskatchewan's Daniel Milgaard to the Supreme Court of Canada for an appeal. It had taken Milgaard almost three years to win approval of his request. In April, 1993, the court ordered that Milgaard was entitled to a new trial. He was freed, and the Saskatchewan government has decided not to try him a second time.

The length of Milgaard's review process was not unusual. Most applicants under Section 690 never forward, as Toronto lawyer Daniel Brodsky colorfully puts it, about "an affidavit with a seal with arthritis." Brodsky has reason to know, among his clients is David Tabor, a key witness at the murder trial of former RCMP undercover agent Patrick Kelly in 1984. Tabor testified that she had seen the way ex-Mossie threw his wife, Jeanette, off the balcony of the couple's 17th-floor Toronto condominium. Found guilty of first-degree murder, Kelly was sentenced to life imprisonment without eligibility for parole for 25 years. But in December, 1993, Tabor recanted, asserting in an affidavit that "I did not watch Patrick Kelly drop Jeanette from their balcony."

In a second sworn statement, which also gave the full story of the March 7, Tabor declared that her trial testimony "was a lie" which she had told after repeated interviews with police investigators and hypnosis. But despite the stunning reversal in Tabor's account and her own acknowledgment that she could face perjury charges for her initial testimony—(federal investigators waited July 15 months, until last May, to interview the woman themselves). At the same time, according to Kelly's Toronto-based lawyer Clayton Ruby, federal officials have dragged their feet by refusing repeated demands to release critical documents on reading Kelly's conviction.

While such cases raise questions about a reviewing witness's credibility, Brodsky points out that the double must apply as much to their original testimony as to their new version. At the same time, he adds, it is not unusual for a person who has had to come forward eventually. "Witnesses are not just through the witness, they are witnesses just on them," he said. "If they have led they have to live with their conscience."

As for delays in the review process, justice department officials deny that they are either intentional or the result of a lack of any sense of urgency on their part. Indeed, Eugene Williams, senior counsel to the Criminal Conviction Review Group in Rock's department, says delays often result from the tardiness of applicants themselves in supplying needed information. Williams told Madison's "the sometimes it happens." On the other hand, he cited the case of Wilson Nepeane, an Alberta Cree whose 1981 conviction for second-degree murder was suspended when a key witness retracted a public campaign, showing up at gatherings attended by Rock's colleagues to press her demand. While that approach is hardly one of the process, on the evidence of Marshall and Milgaard it may just prove more effective than the official channels.

Delays aside, critics also accuse federal officials of leaving the

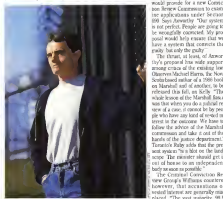
prosecution's point of view at their reinvestigation of old convictions. "They come in with a predisposition to explode the conviction," asserts Bruce Lockyer, a Toronto lawyer who in 1980 helped found the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted, an organization which supports inmates seeking new trials. Adds Lockyer: "It is the most having to go in the car for help." A striking example of that prevented official bias, says Milgaard's Winnipeg-based lawyer, Herb Wadly, was the cancer way in which federal officials treated witnesses in that case. "The review was very one-sided," Wadly admits. "The cancer objective being to seal the guilty person. With a witness that was helping Milgaard, everything was done to discredit them. With a witness that added to the conviction, everything was done to bolster them."

Five years after the Marshall conviction called for reform of the section, after violence was now raising the same cry. On June 6, NDP MP Chris Atwood, who represents Milgaard's former home town of Saskatoon, tabled a private member's bill in the Commons which would provide for a new Conviction Review Commission to examine applications under Section 690. Says Atwood: "That system is not perfect. People are going to be wrongfully convicted. My proposal would help ensure that we have a system that protects the guilty but helps the guilty."

The threat, Atwood, of Atwood's proposal has now added support among critics of the existing law. Observer Michael Harris, the Nova Scotia-based author of a 1988 book on Marshall and of another, is to be released this fall, on parole. "The whole lesson of the Marshall case was that when you do a judicial review of a case, it cannot be by people who have any kind of vested interest in the outcome. We have to follow the advice of the Marshall commission and take it out of the hands of the justice department," Toronto's Ruby adds that the present system "is a blot on the landscape. The minister should get it out of house to an independent body as soon as possible."

The Criminal Conviction Review Group's Williams counters, however, that accusations of vested interests are generally misplaced. "The vast majority, 99.9 per cent of our cases," he says, are applications for a review by people who were associated in personal, not federal, courts. "It is not our work that we review."

Still, for another case of Selwyn Morrison's California, justice with the justice system is raising out. For three years, Denise Morrison, 35, has worked to secure her father's release in a rare conviction. Rock sent her in his Ottawa office last month and she says, assured her that he would personally review her father's file. But she did not accept Tim Morrison's request for a full review. "I'd be willing, in the electronic monitoring if necessary, while officials conduct their review of his case. Disappointed, Tim Morrison has accelerated his public campaign, showing up at gatherings attended by Rock's colleagues to press her demand. While that approach is hardly one of the process, on the evidence of Marshall and Milgaard it may just prove more effective than the official channels.



Kelly, a key Crown witness says her testimony "was a lie"

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CANADA

Chrétien's dilemma

The duty of the Opposition, John Delehanty once said, "is to turn on the government." But Canadian politics being what it is, even that simple goal is open to dispute. For example, the two principal Opposition parties in the House of Commons, the Bloc Québécois and Reform Party, were hardly united. Delehanty's goal is no other answer, so no conflict. The Bloc has no interest in becoming the government; its goal is to turn Quebec out of Canada. Reform, on the other hand, wants to turn out the government, but is even more interested in turning the whole process of government on its head by drastically shrinking and reshaping it.

For most of the Liberal's first 21 months in office, that task of joint purpose among the Opposition has worked in the government's favor. Every time the Bloc talks about sovereignty, it reminds Canadians outside the province of the fight that Jean Chrétien faces to keep the country together. Every time Preston Manning talks about Quebec, it makes Chrétien's approach to Quebec look moderate by comparison. With political enemies like this, who needs friends?

Have said, then, for the Liberals that this is a job up to be their last track measure of endorsement. Both Reform and the Bloc are in the process of dramatically retreating the way they think, and function. Already, some of the results are evident. By late last year, the Liberals will be facing a very different Opposition. That may not be welcome news for the government.

Begin with Reform. The party's sharply improved performance in the House of Commons means, alongside the Liberal's steady growth in support, as the most striking element of the last session. While Reform MPs resisted in making soundings like squawking chickens and otherwise embarrassing themselves, Reform MPs were sharp and precise in their recent attacks on gaffe-prone Heritage Minister Michel Duguay. Overall, their criticism of the government have become better thought-out and focused. Several third-ranking MPs, like John Horgan, Gary Bortone, and Jan Brown—now among the most effective performers in the



BACKSTAGE OTTAWA

BY ANTHONY WILKS

its faults—deserves respect as the only body in the country where all Canadians are democratically represented. Until recently, Reformers and representatives of official Ottawa looked on each other with the barely disguised contempt of the jailed and the jailed—and it was not always clear which was which. Much of the credit for the party's broadened national focus belongs to Reform's most cerebral MP, Stephen Harper, who—although both men since at the moment of it—will one day replace Preston Manning as party leader.

Neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives like to think about that.

The Bloc, meanwhile, is in decline. The public declaration of Lucien Bouchard that the Bloc will now focus only on sovereignty ends the polemic notion that its MPs care what Canadians in other provinces think. And while undeniably, but most obviously, Bouchard has lacked his previous rhetorical fire and sense of commitment since his break with death last December and subsequent loss of his seat.

He seems preoccupied with personal concerns and is spreading this south with his immediate family and moves in California, far from politics. Without him, the Bloc has no effective voice in Ottawa. By next summer, the information should be a thing of the past. If Quebecers vote, the Bloc will matter more than ever before. And if they vote no, the Bloc will not matter at all. And Bouchard's political death, if the worst case, will be in Quebec City, not Ottawa.

A majority vote would change the face of the country irrevocably, but even a No vote will radically alter politics for the next decade, in ways most Canadians have yet to imagine. Despite the old election, change, for a political party in power, is definitely not as good as a rest. How sad it would be for complacent Liberals if the choice could no longer count on the election because their enemies to keep the party out of the government. And how sad it would be for the country—looking the Liberals themselves.

MIRAMICHI FISH FIGHT

Federal fisheries officers and about 130 natives, most of them Miramichi, were at a tense standoff along a designated no-fishing zone of the Miramichi River in southern New Brunswick. The officers asked three of them and strong their own net across the river to prevent fish from reaching the natives, who claim the right to fish whenever they want.

SALINAS IN CANADA

The immigration department confirmed that former Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari entered Canada in mid-June on a six-month tourist visa. Salinas left Mexico for Boston in March after his brother, Raúl, was charged with murdering a high-ranking member of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

A WESTRAY APPEAL

Down attorneys in Nova Scotia argued before the court that they are seeking a second chance to prosecute two more officers on criminal charges arising from a 1982 explosion on the Westray coal mine that killed 30 men. An earlier trial was halted when the judge ruled that prosecutors had not shown the defence at its evidence.

CF-18 PILOT DIES

A Canadian air force pilot, Capt. Richard Bailey, 30, died when his CF-18 jet crashed in the bush of northwestern Saskatchewan during combat drills. Bailey, CF-18s have crashed, lifting nine pilots, since the Canadian military started using delivery of 124 of the fighter planes in 1982.

PAYBACK TIME

Following a seven-month investigation by the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council, a major federal funding agency, Montreal's Concordia University will have to return at least \$115,000 in grant money used for purposes not specifically approved beforehand or not permitted under MITC rules. The council's study follows a 1984 financial audit of the university's engineering department, which found a 20-year pattern of money being put to unauthorized use. The report emphasized that no evidence was found of a professor fraudulently using grant money for his own benefit.

A LONG-AWAITED REWARD

In a widely expected move, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien appointed a former Montrealer, Dr. David Berger, as ambassador to Israel. Berger gave up his seat in December to make way for Lucienne Robitaille, now labor minister and a key federal strategist on Quebec matters.

Canada NOTES



A SUMMER MAELSTROM: Amateurs often sit in a lake of hail and water in St. John's after a fierce summer storm. Left: lawns and streets looking like a winter tableau. Right: downtown sections of the city were hammered by hail, and nearby four inches of rain fell in less than an hour. The city's water treatment plants overloaded, resulting in thousands of gallons of raw sewage pouring into the North Saskatchewan River. A similar hailstorm hit northeast Quebec, washing out roads and stranding people in their cars until help could arrive.

Tackling a medical mystery

Every day, billions of cells perish in a process called apoptosis, as the French body replaces worn-out cells. To recent years, scientists have been investigating apoptosis in the hope of finding out how the process works, and why it goes out of hand in some diseases—or, in the case of proliferating cancer cells, comes to take place. Last week, in an article published in the British scientific journal *Nature*, Montreal cell biologist Donald Nicholson reported the discovery of an enzyme that plays a critical role in determining whether cells live or die. Nicholson, a research fellow at the Merck Frost Centre for Therapeutic Research in Kirkland, Que., who led a team of Canadian and American researchers, wrote that the enzyme, apoptosis, specifically functions by splitting another enzyme, called Bcl-2, which is responsible for detecting levels and helping to repair genetic material in the nucleus of most cells. The researchers speculated that if

apoptosis becomes overly active, too many cells may die—as happens in such neurodegenerative diseases as Alzheimer's and Huntington's. A lack of apoptosis may have the opposite effect, spawning the runaway proliferation of cells that cause cancer.

The finding could pave the way for the development of drugs that are capable of controlling the enzyme's activities—and its potentially deadly effects on the human body. Using that, said Tony Fardich-Nelson, Montreal's vice-president in charge of research, "will require striking a delicate balance—if you inhibit the enzyme to prevent one disease, will you cause cancer?" Food-for-thought added that it would take at least 10 to 12 years before the finding leads to new drugs. Still Linda Frenkel, a molecular biologist at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, "I think kind of what is a lot of people have been looking for. It could be the next frontier in disease therapy."

WINNING A MAJOR GAMBLE

Britain's prime minister passes a leadership test

Which question, it was the biggest gamble of John Major's 10-year political career: Factor criticism from within his own party over his European policy, and risked he'd lose the most Labour Party in public opinion polls, the British prime minister checked the nation by resigning as Conservative leader on June 22. Confronting that critical head-banging had made his job a hell on earth. Major dared his detractors to "put up or shut up"—and thereby launched a snap leadership race last night in London's Grosvenor Palace, home to the British House of Parliament. Tory MPs suddenly shuffled into a Godlike committee room to determine their group's master's fate. And when their votes were removed from a black ballot box, suspended in blue ribbons, it was clear that, in the short term at least, Major's bet had paid off. He defeated his sole challenger, former secretary of state for Wales John Redwood, by a margin of more than two to one—218 votes to 49, with 22 abstentions. He squeaked halfway—defying widespread predictions that he had squandered his own political destiny by putting his leadership to the test. Standing on the steps of his official residence, 10 Downing Street, a triumphant Major claimed that his victory had "put to rest any question and any speculation about the leadership of the Conservative Party up to and beyond the next general election." The prime minister also appended to his victory by giving clear public backing behind them: "The time for this issue is over," he said.

Major—who came from behind to succeed Margaret Thatcher as Conservative Party leader and prime minister in 1990—promised yet again that his political skills can not be underestimated. That the 35-year-old son of a one-time circus performer will still be walking a political tightrope—while juggling several conflicting interests. First, he must try to heal deep wounds within his party and assuage rightwing Tory "euroskeptics" that his efforts to close down ties with the European Union do not amount to a seignior of British interests. He also leans on upbraid harp to regain the confidence of a disillusioned electorate if he expects to hold on to power in Britain's next



Major and wife Sarah after the vote: a possible political resurrection

general election, which must be called no later than May, 1997.

For the past two years, surveys have consistently shown that Major is the most unpopular prime minister since political polling began in Britain after the Second World War. And his Conservatives currently lag behind the opposition Labour Party, led by 43-year-old Tony Blair, a self-made hotelier, by about 30 points. "The bottom line is that the Conservatives will lose under Major, and I think they know that," said University of Essex political analyst David Sanders after last week's vote.



Blair, 20-point lead

During the leadership challenge, former Tory finance minister Norman Lamont predicted the worst. He worried that Britain's Tories would share the same fate as Canada's Conservatives—who lost all but two seats in the last federal election—unless they found the wherewithal to dump their unpopular leader. Said Lamont: "The Conservative Party is facing a repeat—a Canadian-style defeat at the polls."

Given the volatility of Western elections, Major could just as easily escape a political resurrection. But Labour Party strategists last week could hardly contain their glee over the Tory upswing. For 10 years, strongman Major, they contended, the leadership challenge had underscored his weaknesses. Blair, a new style Labourite who has abetted talk of private redistribution and state ownership in favor of "dynamic market economics," crowed that the Tories had "agreed the deal with the leadership election, proved us wrong and were actually horrified to lose the deal that again."

Blair also emphasized that a third of the 389 sitting Tory MPs—who hold a narrow, non-seat majority in the Commons—had failed to back the prime minister since Blair. "The air has been thick with tension and poison, and I believe what [Major] relied up to was not just Conservative Party but two: and those divisions are utterly unacceptable."

Others, however, said that last week's result would likely help the government. Jon Crowe, a professor of government studies at Essex University, says Major can ultimately prove capable of uniting his divided party—and of winning back in popularity. "No longer can it be said that he's a wing or that he's indecisive," said Crowe. "His shows a certain amount of courage. I think there will be a surge in the polls for the Conservatives which he can build on and exploit." He added: "What Major has done is give himself a three- or four-month opportunity to reverse the fortunes of the party and impose his own authority."

And the prime minister would like him to try to do just that. "The day after his leadership victory, he began summoning ministers one by one to Downing Street for the most dramatic 'reshuffling' of his cabinet since he assumed office five years ago in a clear attempt to consolidate his hold on power. Major rewarded several key Tories who had as solid him in his re-election bid. Among them: Michael Heseltine, who had been widely expected to enter the room as the event. Major held in greater enough support in the first round of voting. The prime minister named Heseltine, his former trade secretary, deputy prime minister with responsibility for formulating policy and being a sell to voters before the next general election. The popular Glynnis Ashcroft, who lost the Tory leadership to Major in 1990, has made no secret of his pain by burning down in one day his prime minister.

Also rewarded was 49-year-old Scottish lawyer Malcolm Rifkind, who replaced retiring Douglas Hurd as foreign secretary. Michael Portillo, a leading figure among the Conservative Right wing, was put in charge of defense, a politically challenging post from which he will find it difficult to wage ideological warfare with the prime minister. But the biggest loser was Major's leadership challenger Redwood, the standard-bearer for opponents at closer integration of the European Union, who was not included in the cabinet he led by his leader. Still, like most of the old Major MPs within the Conservative ranks, he

their divisions have eased. "I think they have been at power too long," he said. "They're put to the test and election because they are so in line up with them." Major's victory also means the Labour Party victory, saying that it would allow the Conservatives time to rebuild. After that, she predicted, Labour would grow that it was worth to govern—and voters would welcome the Tories back with open arms.

While the leadership campaign exposed some raw nerves within the party, it was the vague sense of European integration that proved most divisive. Under 1992's Maastricht treaty, member nations of the European Union committed themselves to develop a common currency by 1999. Britain, however, negotiated the right to opt out of the plan. Many Tories, Redwood included, daily oppose the concept of a single European currency. Major, on the other hand, has adopted a more flexible stance, saying that although he feels full economic integration with Europe is unlikely, Britain should not dismiss the idea out of hand. He believes at this time, the prime minister would, would undermine the country's ability to influence future European economic policy.

Such appeals to a middle ground, critics charge, are exactly what got Major into his current predicament. Voters, they argue, simply do not know when the prime minister needs they may be right. At the Chancellery Gate down the street from Westminster last week, the staff was busy preparing made-to-order sandwiches, mainly for tourists and old servants. "I think Major's done good things for the country," said waitress Roshelle Blawie. But when asked what she thought were "good things" the prime minister has done, only an embarrassed grin and a shrug of the shoulders followed. With London hoteliers saying that Labour would shoulder the odious (twice a 2 to 1) to win the next election, Major will be under intense pressure to get his message out more clearly in the months ahead.

SCOTT STEINER with ALLAN DORN in London

it least tried to get to a show of presidential election lay-off, saying that Major had won "fair and square under the rules."

But many observers expressed skepticism at the sudden outpouring of party unity. The influential *Financial Times* of London wrote that Major's cabinet shuffle "will not repair the fault-lines" in the Tory caucus. "The Conservative Party remains at breaking point," the paper added. "The prime minister has bought time, but little more." The rightwing tabloid *Sunday Britain's* irrepressible daily newspaper, echoed this analysis. "Yesterday the unknown was for Christmas," it said the day after the leadership contest. "And the way they're going they'll get a damned good stuffing." It was not the first time that the British papers had written Major off, however. Many predicted that he would be defeated by then-Labour leader Neil Kinnock in 1992's general election. When Major actually led his party to a fourth consecutive parliamentary majority.

Still, as far as most British voters are concerned the Conservatives' days are indeed numbered. "If the Tories wanted to win the next election, they should have ditched Major," said Rüdiger Burenstam, a sovereign resident standing opposite the clock tower that houses Big Ben, after the vote. "They should have put Heseltine in."

Nearby, at the Albert Pub, owner Bill Wood and his husband, Roger, have been palming traditional British ales for more than 100 years. For Labour's sake, says Wood, a Conservative, and that the Tories, who have ruled uninterrupted for 15 years, need to be taught a lesson for all the controversy

Shaky freedoms

The U.S. Supreme Court challenges liberalism

For the American Hindus in sari saris and shawl shawls chatting up Independence Day toasts in the Washington Mall last week, there right to preach universal love—and tell T-shirts bearing that message—is espoused as clearly as U.S. law as it is in the cosmic consciousness of their Hindu Kumbha mela. They had raised their temporary village of multicolored tents by federal permit and the authority of the U.S. Constitution for freedom of speech, including “the free exercise” of religion. Other stall owners relied on the same right in selling sloganizing T-shirts along the Mall’s 20-block stretch of parkland that celebrates the nation’s heroes as icons and as reflections in the galleries of the Smithsonian Institution. But alongside the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum on July 4 stood rows of brassy tables empty of their usual stock of souvenir T-shirts. Park police closed them down on the eve of Independence Day, alleging unseemly commercialism.

“The mall was taking on a free-market atmosphere,” said a National Park Service spokesman explaining that the agency is drawing a new line between permissible merchandising for “a cause” and prohibited selfish for-profit peddling. But for a shutdown vendor who gave his name only as “David,” that line unfairly favors hawkers who “love stickers as their T-shirts to have ‘love’ or ‘peace’ that.” The ruling, he says, discriminates against the right to make a living. The legal right on the Mall may be too small ever to rise above the local courts’ use of attempts to resolve it. But for the representatives, in miniature, a wider ferment over fundamental rights and freedoms. A recent series of decisions at the U.S. Supreme Court, along with inaction in Congress, reflect and encourage a conservative shift in American attitudes on free speech and religious rights as well as on interracial and federal-state relations.

In a rash of judgments before a summer recess the nine-member court—sometimes by a bare majority—challenged longstanding and liberal constitutional precedents. Republicans applauded the top judiciary for proving to be “the most activist, conservative

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

BY CARL NOLLINS

court,” in the description of Erwin Chemerinsky, as analyst at the University of Southern California Law Center in Los Angeles. But an assessment published by the Washington-based American Civil Liberties Union says that the court, by rereading on race issues and favoring states’ rights over

so-called federal bias and power a compelling government interest. That reinforced a May decision that cut off a Maryland scholarship program for blacks on the ground that it discriminated against whites.

The court’s five-majority majority also ordered a halt to federally devised racial segregation programs in Missouri schools, leaving it to the state to settle. Then, it invoked racial protection rights against a federal scheme that encouraged congressional voting districts, mainly in the South, in order to create black-majority electorates. The plan created 18 such districts in 1993, allowing doubling current black membership in Congress. Those decisions paralyzed federal and state political campaigns to dismantle an array of affirmative action programs.

In other actions, the court paved the way for fundamental Christian leaders by legitimizing the free-speech rights of religious groups—even when that guarantees conflicts with another constitutional conviction requiring government to keep its distance from established religion. In those cases, the justices’ 5-vote majority of Virginia and the governor of Ohio each had traveled the prevailing standard separating church and state in withholding support for the expression of Christian ideas. In Virginia, university authorities refused to subsidize a campus Christian organization, while giving grants to nonreligious journals. In Ohio, the state government barred the Ku Klux Klan from using a wooden cross inside a Christian church and a traditional Jewish confessions outside the capital in Columbus.

Both actions were wrong in restricting free speech, ruled court justices. Leaving aside the Klan’s background of menacing crosses as a threat to the border. These decisions encouraged Republican lawmakers to likewise challenge the church-state separation rule in order to restore school prayers and redemptive public funds to parents who prefer desegregation, including for their children.

The trend to a radical revision of constitutional rights and freedoms exists down over the progress of the U.S. T-shirt ven-



LEAD: CHANGING UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONSERVATIVE DISSENT

federal authority, reflects the mood of the nation rather than an “affirming the country’s highest moral vision.”

Three court verdicts in June, all decided by the votes to four, undercut civil rights policies developed by Congress and the court since the 1950s to remedy racial discrimination. It ruled out 30-year-old affirmative action measures designed in Washington to enhance the chances of racial minorities and women in business, unless those measures are narrowly focused to cor-

rect past racial treatment before the courts with cause-proven competitors. Less, as Republicans, were as more likely to qualify for a boost under the collapsing affirmative action program. As the preening mood in the highest court and politics can leave to turn back the clock on civil rights, Leon and many more men and women in similar plight appear to face fewer chances of achieving the promise of the original independent Day. Everyone has an equal right to pursue happiness. □

JAPANESE GAS ATTACKS

Japanese security officials went on high alert after a new wave of attempted terrorist attacks in Tokyo—including the planting of cyanide-sniffing devices in public washrooms in two subway stations. Government officials believe members of Aum Shin-rye, or Supreme Truth Sect, may have been behind the incidents. Police have accused the sect of a March nerve-gas attack in the Japanese capital that killed 11 people and injured 5,500 others.

ULSTER UNREST

Violence erupted in Northern Ireland after Britain freed a soldier convicted of murdering a Catholic teenager in 1996. Outraged Catholics embraced security forces and set vehicles ablaze. Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, who heads the Irish Republican Army’s political wing, appealed for calm and urged all-party talks to revive the stalled peace process.

DOWN TO EARTH

The space shuttle Atlantis landed at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center with an eight-member crew that included three men who had orbited the Earth for 115 days aboard the Russian space station Mir. The two Russians and one American were picked up by Atlantis when it docked with Mir on June 28.

TURKEY ATTACKS KURDS

Turkish troops, backed by planes and helicopters, pushed into northern Iraq in an attempt to root out Kurdish rebels. Turkey accused the rebels of waging a socialist campaign from across the border. In Baghdad, Iraq’s foreign ministry denounced the invasion as a “flagrant violation of Iraq sovereignty.”

CANADA URGES NINE BAN

At a UN conference in Geneva on the use of land mines, Canadian government representatives urged the United Nations to ban the use of land mines. Each year, land mines kill or maim an estimated 38,000 people, 30 per cent of whom are children.

HAPPINESS POLL

A Gallup poll in 15 countries found that Hungary—where 81 per cent of citizens said they were dissatisfied with their lives—is the unhappiest of the lot. Indonesia, meanwhile, was the happiest people, with a dissatisfaction rate of only five per cent. They were followed by Germany and Canada, with dissatisfaction rates of 18 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

World NOTES



MIDDLE EAST PROGRESS: In the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, Arab women march past a burning Israeli tank for the release of an army as 8,000 Palestinians being held in Israeli jails. Last week, in what Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat termed a breakthrough, he and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reached an interim agreement that they said would pave the way for signing an accord on full Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on July 11.

Chechnya stalemate

In a cabinet shuffe prompted by the cross in separatist Chechnya, Russian President Boris Yeltsin promoted Col-Gen Anatoly Koltsov, commander of Russian forces trying to hold the lawless wayward republic, to be his new interior minister. While most observers expressed hope that Koltsov would support the Kremlin’s apparent desire for peace with the Chechens, some saw his appointment as detrimental to the attempt to forge a permanent ceasefire in the region—where 40,000 Russian troops were sent last December to put down a three-year independence drive.

Meanwhile, Russian government officials continued to insist that they would not grant independence to Chechnya—one of the rebels’ key demands. And as peace talks resumed in the Chechen capital of Grozny, Chechen negotiators strongly objected to a demand issued by Yeltsin allowing for a perma-

nent armed Russian presence in the region. Although the president later softened his stance, at week’s end the stalemate talks broke down as each side accused the other of violating a fragile truce in the region.

Prosecution rests

After 5½ months of testimony from 58 witnesses and the introduction of nearly 500 pieces of evidence, the prosecution in the double-murder trial of O.J. Simpson rested its case. Over the next six weeks, Simpson’s defense team, led by Johnnie Cochran, is expected to call to the stand relatives, friends and gambling partners of the former football great to testify about his demeanor before and after the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman on June 12, 1994. It is still unclear whether Simpson will take the stand in his own defense—a move that most legal experts say would be dangerous.

MAKING MILLIONS

Canadian software companies are leaders in a highly competitive global computer market

BY DEBORAH MCMURRY

It is the final parenthesis mark for the end of an era. Last week, Santa Clara Corp. of New Canada, Conn., one of the last North American companies to manufacture typewriters, literally filed for bankruptcy protection. Company executives said that personal computers had eliminated the demand for their product and they reported that Santa Clara was left with total net assets worth just \$284 million. That is only slightly more than the advertising budget that Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Wash., has earmarked for the launch of the latest version of its personal computer operating system, Windows 95.

Not since the late 19th century, when the widespread availability of cheap steam power unleashed the Industrial Revolution, has there been an equivalent with the socioeconomic resonance of the computer. Last year for the first time more U.S. households acquired personal computers than television sets. And in the sectors to computers have become more widespread as businesses of all sizes and in homes, the computer industry itself has evolved at an astonishing rapid pace—along the way creating a stable of new Canadian millionaires whose brands have conquered the world.

Their products are familiar names—CorelDRAW and WinFax—and their companies, including Copcon Corp., Corel Corp., Delrina Corp., Intergraph Corp., Comshare Corp., Logi and Newbridge Networks, are among global players for their respective products. Together they represent a multibillion-dollar-a-year industry that, over a decade ago, barely existed. Clustered around universities such as the University of Waterloo, and research facilities, such as those in Kanata, Ont., the software companies have become one of the leading forces in Canada's New Economy.

In the beginning, there was hardware: mainframe, early minicomputer computers that were the exclusive province of experts within big government and big corporations. The next wave, in the 1980s, brought an array of better, smaller personal computers that could perch on any desktop or office as a toy.

But it is software that is now on the march, adding value to hard ware, providing customized services for mass-produced computers and connecting incompatible systems into a seamless global network. Canadian network guru Michael Baker, associate professor of computer science at the University of Western Ontario in London, "Hardware is as long as an ant, it's a means. It's a basic platform for the software that is carrying technology on the next leg forward."

The high-growth emphasis on software is already apparent in the recent spate of strategic acquisitions that mergers in the sector. Earlier this year, software company Alcan Research of Toronto, maker of the three-dimensional PowerAnimator software, was taken over by Salient Graphics of Mountain View, Calif. In 1994, Softimage at Montreal, which produces special-effects software, was acquired by Microsoft. Last month, IBM Corp., whose corporate roots are planted firmly in the mainframe business, paid \$4 billion to acquire the established brand-name software developer Lotus Development Corp., maker of the profitable spreadsheet

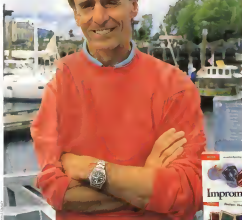
program Lotus 3-1-1 and Lotus Notes. Then last week, Delrina Corp. announced that it was joining forces with Synovate Corp. of Capetown, Calif., in a \$698-million share-exchange deal. Both companies have business-to-business product lines and could suffer with the release of Microsoft's new, improved Windows 95 software. Industry analysts say that they expect that consolidation to continue, especially because Canadian high technology stocks are now attractively priced for U.S. investors.

Another incentive for additional mergers is the growing need to develop strong licensing relationships in a competitive market. According to technology analyst Mark Lawrence, with Loewen Graduate McGeehee Ltd. in Toronto, "as computing power has become broadly available to the general population, software has become more a consumer retail business than a technological one." He adds that the need of a recognized brand name to gain retail distribution will also push software mergers.

Just as in the consumer goods industry, software has become a business where low margins must be offset by high sales volumes and a significant chunk of what is known as the computer business is a consumer "mainframe." That means that, as Microsoft has clearly demonstrated, aggressive, global marketing is essential for success. After all, when IBM marched for a top executive to turn the aging computer giant around financially, it turned to Lou Gerstner, whose previous career experience was at the packaged goods company J&M Hehr.

In order to recover the considerable costs of software development, companies have to act fast—and globally. Although a high price may be charged for a new software product initially, it does not take long for competitors to improve upon it. That means that the volume of early sales must be high. "The economics of the software business force companies to think globally," says Paul Kennedy, president of computer consultancy IDC Canada.

But at the same time as global market pressures are pushing the software industry to consolidate, there is still considerable ongoing fragmentation. While larger, established companies may increasingly dominate the business, their focus is on the high volumes of mass-market sales. As the companies get larger and more innovative, they create new specialized niches for smaller companies. "The big com-



Copcon chairman Potter: "cash on hand and a stock price that's appropriately cheap"

LEADERS OF THE PACK

A handful of Canadian entrepreneurs have successfully made the transition from high-tech startups to the international ranks of software industry leaders. In the process, they have become multinationals and created knowledge-intensive jobs at home. But while they all clearly enjoy the ride from the top, they are also acutely aware that the only way to stay in the game is to keep innovating, upgrading and expanding their existing product lines.

SAILING PAST THE COMPETITION WITH CUSTOM COMPUTERWARE

COMPANY: Michael Potter
PRODUCT: computer customization software
1994 REVENUE: \$150 million

Ever when he is discussing his retirement plans, Michael Potter is mathematically precise. Potter, chairman and chief creative of software developer Copcon Inc. of Ottawa, says that in a few months—when he steps down from the active role—he now plays as the company—he intends to spend exactly one-third of his time sailing. "But a third of my time is still 11 or 12 years on a boat," declared Potter, who has a masters degree in physics. "It's just too inactive intellectually."

Although Potter's debuter career never achieved the same status as the standards of the private software industry, he is one of the Canadians who has struck it rich in the business. Copcon, which Potter founded in 1981, is a recognized global leader in the business software market. And, as Potter points out, though for that long as a leader in an industry where most of the leading-edge companies of 10 years ago are now out of business: "We always sold our products as a more valuable option than the status quo."

But Copcon has more than just re-invention—it scores well in old and back, too. One of the toughest challenges for an established software company is to develop a second generation of products that is fresh to be as popular and profitable as its first. Copcon got started by developing custom software for individual businesses; in time, it began to develop software tools to enable businesses to customize their computer systems to meet their individual needs. Five years ago, it introduced a new product line of so-called business intelligence software, which businesses can use to organize their own data. Copcon president Sam Zamboni says that help with the development of its second-generation products, Impromptu and PowerPlay. "A lot of the drive behind those products came from one of our customers who had this problem with data and asked us to help," said Zamboni. "That



vision of Matt Corp. and small powerful brands along the way among them, former Matt head and Carol Corp. chief executive Michael Compagno, who is now on the flourishing board of directors. Despite his professional and financial success, however, Sorkin continues to sport shoulder-length hair. And he is, in fact, and continues—wearing a thick cigar in hand—in office (photo depicts recent sales conversations).

To keep his firm's operations humming, Sorkin is pushing his long-term research and development team to expand its range in computer networking products. At the moment, the 14- and 15-year-olds in the final stages of building an S-server that works with Microsoft's long-anticipated Windows 95 computer operating system, which is expected to be released in late August. Currently, a single package of Hummingbird's software costs \$450, although prices drop sharply for its expert-bug-in-hole. And such a major corporation as Novbridge routinely buy 450 units at a time. About 75 per cent of Hummingbird's sales are in the United States—just over the per cent of revenues come from Canada. The company now controls about 40 per cent of the Novbridge market, and Sorkin says he would like to hold 50 per cent within three years. By then, he estimates, the sector will be worth more than \$400 million—it is currently worth about \$150 million.

According to Sorkin, more acquisitions may soon be in the cards. In March, Hummingbird bought Raleigh, N.C.-based computer network developer Beane & Whitmore Software for \$14 million, a move that added additional networking tools to Hummingbird's inventory and increased the company's profile with American investors, an expert factor for a company that listed its shares on the New York City-based NASDAQ exchange last year. Although the company has \$50 million in cash in the bank and credit on its books, Sorkin says he may take advantage of the market's strong appetite for high-tech technology stocks by raising additional shares. Clearly, this Hummingbird is spreading its wings.



● Delmas's Beane, Beane and Shupliak left to night attitude to burn

ANDREW WILLIS

LEARNING THE FAX OF LIFE

DEIRIMA: Deven Deven, Mark Skopelnyk, Bert Amato
PRODUCT: computer/networked fax machines (fax software)
1994 REVENUE: \$123 million

The staff at Toronto-based Deirima Corp. has always had attitude to burn. Under the leadership of a hard-driving trio of immigrants and a California-based sales and marketing whiz, Deirima's line of computer-programmers gained notoriety with a screen-saver program in which a shaggy-tongued pug dog battles with a flock of flying insects—a parody of a more popular program sold by Berkeley Systems Inc. of Berkeley, Calif. When the U.S. company challenged Deirima's rights to use the flying toaster image, the dispute "brought generated



substantial legal publicity for the Canadian firm's products. Deirima also designed software which allowed people to send and receive faxes from their personal computers, called the program WinFax and sold 12 million copies worldwide. In fact, the company was probably its own best customer, unleashing a constant barrage of electronic press releases touting the company's latest projects and product upgrades.

But some of that attitude turned against Deirima's management last week, when 750 disgruntled employees suddenly learned that their seven-year-old company would be folding its operations into Symmetric Corp. of Cupertino, Calif., in a share-exchange deal valued at \$568 million. The staff at Deirima's Toronto head office quickly expressed dismay at the prospect of losing up to 95 jobs, as well as some of their cherished independence.

But according to the company's founding chairman, Dennis Beane, Deirima's defiant attitude will be unaffected by the merger. Just hours after the agreement with Symmetric was signed, Beane told *Money*, "The ability of Deirima to create and innovate is enhanced by this deal. Symmetric has shown and talent in marketing, acquisitions, and we will continue to do research and development in Toronto."

But Beane added that software is not an industry far off the fast of heart or the weak sales of Deirima's fax programs have slowed to a trickle in recent months as computer users began to anticipate the imminent arrival of Microsoft's new

Windows 95 operating system, which has built its fan capability by the product continuing revolution in the software industry, and he acknowledges that the need for a broader range of products helped to drive Deirima, which last year of \$125 million, 1000 the arms of Symmetric, which had 1994 sales of \$450 million.

For his part, Symmetric chief executive Gordon Lubinski says that he is inspired by the challenge of trying Deirima—since its inception since the electronic business forms market and in 1989—of the share of the fax software market—in his firm's product line, which is focused on document handling and protective. Lubinski says, "There's a tremendous integration of telephones and computers coming. When you look at the company doing this, Deirima is at the top of a short list."

For now, Beane and several other senior managers plan to stay grounded and develop new software. Beane, a lean, 43-year-old Canadian engineer, shares and partner whose marble-encrusted North Toronto home is just blocks from the ivory Riverside Valley Golf Course, will join the Symmetric board. He will be accompanied there by Deirima's president, Mark Skopelnyk, 48. As a result of the merger or deal, each of them will own more than 800 million of Symmetric stock. Chief technology officer Bert Amato is also staying on at Deirima, but the fourth founding member of the team—Sam Jose, Calif.-based sales chief, Lou Ryan—will likely leave the firm.

Joining forces with Symmetric is just the latest step in a journey that started in Johannesburg for Beane and Skopelnyk and at Zambabwe for Amato. The three did not meet until they reached Toronto. Then Amato, who had worked at IBM, and Skopelnyk brought a software idea to Beane, who was then president of another software company, James Quadrone Inc. Eventually, the three joined forces. Now, upon Deirima and its executives are playing in the big leagues, and Beane says, "I anticipate fantastic opportunities to build a more powerful company, without some of the distractions that dog smaller firms." And in California, Deirima's attitude may just find a natural home.

A. W.



NEW BRIDGE TO A HIGH-TECH FORTUNE

NEWBRIDGE NETWORKS: Torrance Mathews
PRODUCT: new-wave customer networking system
1994 REVENUE: \$552 million

Torrence Mathews has always lived in the limo. As a child, he tinkered with cars in his father's garage in the Welsh town of Newbridge. Now, the Queen's richest billionaire tinkers with telephone systems at a nine-year-old company named Newbridge Networks Corp. When time permits, he cruises his power in Wales. At 52, Mathews has amassed two fortunes in his many decades. Now, he is on the verge of once again profiting handsomely from the newest generation of communications software.

Already among the top two companies with high-technology products that allow phone companies to upgrade, voice and video signals, Newbridge also is a pioneer in the communications specialty known as asynchronous transfer mode (ATM). That means that the company's product can handle any electronic information and pass it quickly and reliably, the way customers can be shipped from a ship to a truck in a train. Last year was the first that Newbridge sold ATM products—and it moved about \$600 million worth.

Over the next two years, investment analysts Andrew Wattman and Tom Vidula of the Toronto-based securities dealer Bank & Partners Inc. forecast that Newbridge's ATM sales could top \$470 million. They also expect the debtless company, which had 2,900 employees and sales of \$552 million and profits of \$256 million in 1994, as capable of expanding to \$1.2 billion in sales and a \$250-million profit by 1996.

"Still, according to the rules, Newbridge should never have even made it out of the starting gate. Company spokesman John Lawler overlooks, "We were actually a late entry into networking, and should never have been able to make up ground. But what we provided from the start was a total solution to a company's communications needs, something no competitor was doing."

Mathews's high-tech adventure in Canada began in 1958, when he and his wife, Ann, then living in Wales, visited Ottawa on a vacation in North America. They never left. An engineer by training, he took a job in Ottawa marketing British chips for Microsystems International, a branch of Northern Telecom. He made his first millions with Michael Compagno when the two founded Matt Corp. with a \$5,000 loan and a technology that converted rotary dial phones to touch-tone lines. After a bruising ride on the stock market that culminated in a corporate buyout by British Telecom, Mathews left Matt in 1986 with about \$40 million in cash and founded Newbridge Networks. Along the way, he also accumulated the trappings of success: vacation homes in Ontario's Thousand Islands region and in Florida, and properties in Wales and London. Mathews recently earned 14th place on *The Sunday Times'* list of the 500 richest Britons—three spots above Queen Elizabeth II. But then, the Queen never had to work her way to the top.



A. W.

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, 1990*.

Karla Homolka faces the heat

A tough defence lawyer grills the Crown's star witness against Paul Bernardo

At various points in his cross-examination, defence lawyer John Rosen asked his eyes and shrugged his shoulders. He was openly skeptical and downright sarcastic. He belched in a surly voice and pointed an accusatory finger at the slender, misshapen witness. After two weeks of appearing in a Crown witness costume by a sympathetic prosecutor, 35-year-old Karla Homolka last week faced the lawyer who is aggressively demolishing her ex-husband—Paul Bernardo. 30—against two counts of first-degree murder. Rosen's dramatic gestures and rhetorical flourishes in the downtown Toronto courtroom were more than mere courtroom theatrics; meant simply to engage the jury and intimidate the witness. They were part of a strategic attack on the foundations of Homolka's story—and the Crown's theory. They maintain that she participated willingly in her former husband's alleged crimes, the rapes and killings of teenage schoolgirls Kirsten French and Leslie Mahaly, because she had been terrified by his violence and abuse.

Challenging the Crown's portrait of Homolka as a vulnerable young woman who was manipulated and controlled by her partner throughout their five-year relationship, the 30-year-old Rosen read aloud dozens of love letters that she had sent to Bernardo. He depicted Homolka as a sexual aggressor who pursued Bernardo relentlessly during their courtship, became obsessed with marrying him and played an active role in several crimes. Rosen also produced several photographs of the couple, taken throughout the relationship, which showed a smiling, happy Homolka. But in the four days that she stood in his opponent's courtroom presence, Homolka did not smile. Far from appearing submissive, she denied many of his charges and allegations—and her own, often testily responding to questions heated exchanges. Frequently, Crown Attorney Ray Haddad rose to object or Justice Patricia Leach intervened to cut off further lines to "let the witness answer."

While Rosen raised some serious doubts about Homolka's credibility, in doing so he referred to events that are equally disturbing to his own client—who may, his lawyers ad-



mitted, testify later in the trial. Rosen accused Homolka of dragging her 15-year-old sister, Tammy, for Bernardo's sexual pleasure—not just once, as she had testified for the prosecution, but twice. Rosen charged that the other incident happened about five months before the previously known evening of Dec. 28, 1990, which led to the teenager's death when she choked on her own vomit. He said the earlier attack, like the first one, took place in the basement of the Homolka family home in St. Catharines, Ont. Homolka denied it ever happened, saying: "You are dead wrong."

Rosen also suggested that while Homolka's parents and younger sister Lani, then 19, were away on business in Toronto for several days in January, 1991, about three weeks after Tammy's death, Bernardo raped a teenage girl in Homolka's bedroom while she watched. In her earlier testimony, Homolka

had claimed that Bernardo had "consensual sex" with a woman in the basement while she remained asleep. Rosen's allegation led to a typically hostile exchange.

"What happens as soon as your parents leave?" the lawyer asked rhetorically. "The first thing he did was go out and get a girl. He brought her back for his sex but at the last moment you choked out because it was with a stranger and she wasn't drugged, right?"

"That's not true," Homolka snapped back. "I was not thinking about what Paul was doing. I was thinking about my sister who died." "We brought her in the house and you didn't stand there and say, 'What the hell are you doing? Get her out of my house! Get her out the door!'"

"I didn't say no to Paul because he had something big held over my head."

But no matter how probing it is, Rosen's

cross-examination alone, which was to continue this week, appeared unlikely to put more than a dent in the Crown's case. The Crown claims Bernardo strangled the girls after abducting them and sexually assaulting them in the St. Catharines house he rented with Homolka. Homolka is already serving concurrent 12-year sentences after pleading guilty to manslaughter in a plea bargain for her involvement in the deaths of French and Mahaly. As well, Homolka has already admitted her participation in the last attack on her sister Tammy, as well as in his part, 1981, assault of another teenage girl, identified only as Jane Doe, who survived and may testify against Bernardo. Even if Rosen succeeds in casting doubt on Homolka's version of those events, the Crown has shown the right man, how women pay another devastating price of evidence—15½ hours of hard-core videotapes depicting the rapes of all four girls.

In his cross-examination last week, Rosen focused on Homolka's behavior before and after the December, 1990, rape of Tammy Mahaly. Homolka maintains that incident changed her relationship with Bernardo, and influenced her subsequent behavior. She says that he captivated her into participating in the assault, then blackmailed her into staying with him and taking part in other crimes, as he threatened to tell her family how Tammy died. Homolka contends that she was trapped in a loveless relationship poisoned by sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

Rosen introduced dozens of greeting cards with handwritten love notes that Homolka sent Bernardo. The cards, according to Rosen, were as a record of the relationship—revealing, among other things, sexual practices, quarrels and her obsessive love for him. By late November, 1987, six weeks after meeting Bernardo by chance at a Scarboro hotel and spending the night with him, she told him, by writing, that she wanted him completely and eternally. "You're wonder-

K Homolka and Bernardo early in their relationship (left); Rosen outside the Toronto courthouse—challenging the foundations of Homolka's story



ful. You're the best, my prince. I love you" and in March, 1988, in anticipation of Bernardo's return from a prison stint in Ontario, Homolka wrote: "First My honey baby in house. Let's never be that far apart again."

Rosen claimed that in the summer of 1980, the relationship took a dangerous turn when Bernardo became sexually attracted to Tammy. He pursued Tammy from a distance as his first victim in July of that year, in which Bernardo and Tammy drove in New York state to buy alcohol for a party—a trip that should have taken less than 30 minutes but lasted five hours. Although Homolka denied it, Rosen maintained that she became suspicious that something bad occurred between her sister and Bernardo. In a prison room, he told, Homolka took her revenge by drugging Tammy with vitamins and allowing her chance to escape. "What you did was say that, if my little sister starts playing with her, you're going to get her burned. I'll show her what this is all about," Rosen said.

Although Homolka maintains that she was consumed with guilt and remorse after Tammy's death, Rosen argued that the tragedy barely affected her. He also claimed that, far from being trapped into staying with Bernardo, she chose him over her family. In mid January, 1981, the Homolkas suggested to their daughter that Bernardo, who was living in New house, ought to leave and let them give Tammy's death as a family. Homolka acknowledged that Bernardo then became nervous, said he would never sleep in the Homolka house again, and left with Karla in tow. They spent a weekend together in hotels in nearby Washington, Ont., then leased their now-notorious Cape Cod-style disheveled home in St. Catharines, which they furnished entirely on credit. In a letter written to a friend at the time, Homolka proudly declared: "Finally, I have some happiness in my life. Paul and I are moving in together. We are going to live in it."

At the same time, she continued to make lunch plans for her June 20 wedding, despite the objections of her parents. The Homolkas complained that they couldn't afford the wedding because of the expense of Tammy's funeral, and asked their daughter to postpone it for a year. Bernardo, who was unemployed at the time, angrily told his future in-laws that they should manage their house instead. Homolka expressed her own feelings in a February, 1991, letter to a friend, which Rosen made a point of reading aloud. "My wedding plans are going great, except that my parents are being...bitchy," she said. "They pulled [half of the money out] and now me and Paul will have to pay for \$7,000 to \$8,000 of this wedding. My father doesn't even want us to have a wedding. He hasn't wanted [except for one day] since Tammy died. He's swallowing in his chest. A girl's father...Baww. Would he could stand her up underlined because she could think of nothing but herself and her marriage to Paul Bernardo."

Backpack

A monthly report on personal health, life and leisure

BRITTLE BONES

On Dec. 8, 1993, Lynn Ford slipped on a patch of ice and broke her hip. It was a fall that changed her life. Subsequent tests showed that Ford, then 55, had developed osteoporosis, a degenerative disease that causes bones to become thin and brittle.

Thanks to exercise, high doses of calcium and drug therapy, the Saskatoon retail clerk has been managed to keep her bones from deteriorating further. But she has had to give up one of her favorite hobbies: skating, and must now take extra care when she gets into avoid injuring her spine. Worse, she is forced to live with pain that is sometimes severe. "Once you've broken a hip, your whole lifestyle changes," she says. "I never walk down a flight of stairs without hanging on to the rail. And I told my skates to I wouldn't have to look at them."

Ford is one of a growing number of Canadians who will develop osteoporosis in their middle years. The national Osteoporosis Society of Canada estimates that 15 million people across the country—three-quarters of them women—now suffer from osteoporosis. Experts say that about two million more are at risk—a number that may double in the next 30 years as the baby boom generation moves into middle and old age. At the same time, a recent Saskatchewan study found that the incidence of osteoporosis was more than 50 per cent of the grey-haired population—a trend the study's authors suggested might be due to a lack of exercise and poor nutrition, both of which can produce fragile bones.

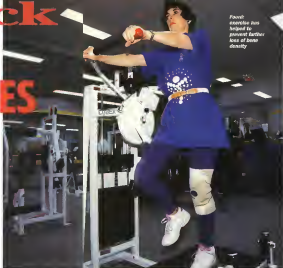
The increased incidence of osteoporosis is not the only bad news for those concerned about the disease. Last month, a major study by doctors at Harvard University cast doubt on the only preventive treatment currently approved for use in Canada, hormone replacement therapy (HRT). About 15 per cent of menopausal women rely on HRT, which usually consists of low doses of the sex hormones estrogen and progesterone, but the Harvard study showed that women who took estrogen after menopause were 32 per cent more likely than other women to develop breast cancer. That finding and others like it have left doctors divided and patients confused about how best to prevent osteoporosis.

"Women are scared," says Dr. Gillian Hawker, research director for the multidisciplinary osteoporosis program at Women's College Hospital in Toronto. She adds that doctors are also divided about whether over-the-counter calcium supplements have been best to prevent osteoporosis.

"It's a very emotional decision, and science doesn't give us all the answers."

One of the biggest mysteries surrounds the question of who will develop osteoporosis.

Women with a family history of the disease—who have experienced irregular menstrual cycles or early menopause or who have a slight frame—are thought to be at greatest risk. In addition, the problem seems to be more prevalent among Caucasians and Asians than other racial groups. Experts say, however, that none of these factors makes it possible to know which women will lose bone density. Joyce Goddard, executive director of the Osteoporosis Society, says the problem is complicated because many doctors still think of osteoporosis as a disease of old age, and because most women do not experience any symptoms or signs of it at onset. Most are not diagnosed until after they have broken a bone, by which point they have typically already lost about 30 per cent of their bone density. "In this age group of women, doctors just aren't thinking of osteoporosis as a diagnosis,"



Goddard says. "By the time you've broken a hip, you're pretty far along."

It is partly because of that uncertainty that Hawker routinely recommends hormone replacement therapy for her patients, starting around menopause. "We know that if you only on risk factors, you're missing a large number of women," she says. In Hawker's view, among the few categories of women who should avoid HRT are those who have breast cancer or a mother or sister with breast cancer, or who suffer from unexplained vaginal bleeding or liver disease.

To be sure, there are other options for people who suffer from osteoporosis. Calcitonin, a hormone that regulates calcium levels in the blood, has been shown to arrest the process of bone depletion, and bisphosphonates, which are used to treat certain rare bone disorders, can help to replace lost bone mass. But the treatments are still controversial, and none has been approved for use in treating osteoporosis.

Not has any other therapy been proven to offer the same protective effect as estrogen. In general, women who start taking estrogen within three years of the onset of menopause are 68 per cent less likely to suffer an osteoporosis-related hip or wrist fracture. Combined with adequate calcium and exercise, HRT can also help replace lost bone density. As a bonus, there is evidence that HRT can cut the risk of heart disease in half.

Despite that, concerns about the possible side-effects of estrogen therapy are widespread. According to Dr. Tim Murray, director of the osteoporosis bone clinic at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, some patients dislike the fact that HRT can result in the contraindications of menstrual periods—in some cases, even among women in their 70s. Po-

ssibly, says Murray, about the growing evidence that HRT may increase their risk of developing breast cancer. But Dr. Alan Teitelbaum, director of the metabolic bone center at Mount Sinai Hospital, says that women should balance the risks with the benefits. Women have a one-per-cent risk of developing breast cancer at some point after age 30. Based on the Harvard study, the risk increases to about 12 per cent for women who take estrogen. In Teitelbaum's opinion, that pales in comparison with the 30- to 35-per-cent risk of developing osteoporosis.

Kenneth Carruthers, a 77-year-old osteoporosis patient in Toronto, B.C., shares that view. Carruthers, 77, had already lost more than 50 per cent of her bone mass and broken her vertebrae when she began treatment for the disease three years ago. Although estrogen, calcium supplements and regular exercise have helped her to rebuild some bone, she has lived in constant pain ever since. She cannot lift more than five pounds or bend over for fear of snapping another vertebra, and she has lost 3½ inches from her forehead, forehead frame. "I had a choice between breast cancer and living through the pain I've had over the last few years," she says. "I would gladly have taken estrogen."

On the opposite side of the scientific debate are physicians such as Dr. Jeffrey Prior, head of endocrinology at the Vancouver Hospital Health Sciences Centre. The risks associated with HRT, Prior maintains, are so serious that estrogen should be used only in special cases, for example among women who already have low bone mass, women who experience severe hot flashes and women who have early menopause.

Prior adds that there is some research suggesting that HRT may actually increase heart disease, as well as breast cancer. And the ups that most of the research that suggests estrogen offers additional health benefits is unreliable, since the women in those studies were not compared with a control group of women who were administered a placebo. At the National Institutes of Health, the first large controlled study to measure the benefits and adverse effects of estrogen therapy is currently under way. Until that study is released, Prior says she will continue to favor a simple regimen of exercise and calcium to reduce the risk of osteoporosis in most women. She says, "I think a healthy lifestyle, which includes good nutrition, weight-bearing exercise, and, if necessary, can decrease the age-related bone loss that occurs in every older man and woman."

In the meantime, research is continuing into a wide range of new therapies that may eventually make it easier to prevent and treat osteoporosis. Preliminary studies have shown that use of these drugs, calcitonin, alters most of the benefits of estrogen but does not prevent cancer. The drug is also checked across North America and could be widely available within 10 years. Another preparation, alendronate, has been shown to stop bone deterioration and is expected to win approval from the federal Health Protection Branch within a year. Meanwhile, a recent study involving laboratory animals at the University of California at San Francisco appeared to show that a naturally occurring hormone, parathyroid, can completely reverse bone damage caused by osteoporosis and make it more fractures less likely. All of these findings offer hope for future sufferers of the disease—but for the time being, the debate over how best to prevent osteoporosis is unlikely to abate.

ANITA ELASH

Preventing osteoporosis: advice from the experts

The best way to avoid osteoporosis, specialists say, is to develop stronger and denser bones early in life. Some recommendations:

• Regular exercise should start in childhood, says Dr. David Hawker, chairman of the scientific advisory board of the Osteoporosis Society of Canada. Although it is unclear how much is sufficient, experts suggest at least half an hour of weight-bearing exercise—such as running, soccer or tennis—three or four times a week.

• A diet containing adequate calcium is essential to ensuring a healthy skeleton and bone development. Adolescents and postmenopausal women have the greatest need for calcium. Most researchers say that teenagers should consume 1,200 to 1,400 mg a day—the equivalent of three or four glasses of milk—while women over age 50 need about 1,200 and 1,400 mg. Good sources of calcium include dairy products, broccoli,

corned salmon (if consumed with the bones), almonds and soybeans.

• Irregular menstrual cycles may indicate a deficiency of estrogen or progesterone, causing decreased bone density. Women who have not started to menstruate by age 16, or who have not menstruated for more than three months, should see their doctors.

• Tobacco use and heavy consumption of alcohol or coffee can increase the risk of osteoporosis. Experts recommend limiting alcohol consumption to no more than two drinks a day and coffee to a maximum of three or four cups of coffee a day.

• A diagnostic test known as bone mineral densitometry can help to detect bone loss in its early stages. Hawker recommends the procedure for women who are considering hormone replacement therapy.

A.1

Backpack A KNOCKOUT FITNESS ROUTINE

Twice a week, Vancouver stockbroker Tim Ferris mixes his athletic club, conveniently located in the same downtown building as his office. After working his midday shift, he shorts and a T-shirt. Ferris is ready to work out. But while other club members are climbing about StarMasters, computerized stationary bicycles and other high-tech fitness choices, Ferris spends the next hour engaged in a far more primal activity: punching and kicking assorted targets with his fists. Although he also lifts weights and plays hockey, Ferris is a convert to the sport of boxing who swears by his regular regimen of slugging, punching and other forms of high-impact cardiovascular exercise. "I'm lighter, my reflexes are quicker, and it has built up my self-confidence," he says. "But the thing I like most is that boxing is completely different from any workout I have tried before."

His proponents call it the sweetest science. And if the goal is a strong and fit body, few activities offer a more effective punching workout than boxing. Traditionally, pugilistic pursuits were left to those brave enough to try an intimidating, male-dominated sport. In the past few years, however, an increasing number of men and women have begun to enjoy the health benefits of boxing, and throwing power punches—without actually stepping into a ring. Although it is difficult to say exactly when boxing began to emerge as a fitness alternative for the masses, it is not difficult to understand why: in addition to its aerobic benefits and emphasis on upper-body strength, boxing is an excellent way to relieve stress. Says Vancouver instructor Mark Colton: "People from all walks of life are realizing how much they can benefit from the workouts of the sport."

Nick Maier, a fitness manager with a Vancouver-based chain of fitness centers, first saw boxing presented as a fitness alternative several years ago, and says there are now "all sorts of different programs available."

Variations range from a basic aerobic class with choreographed punching sequences—conveniently referred to as boxercise—to one-on-one sparring with leather gloves. "Some programs are more aerobic based, some more boxing based," explains Suzanne Anka, an executive director of the Canadian Aerobic instructors Network in Oakville, Ont. In Vancouver, Dale Walters has set up

with choreographed punching sequences—conveniently referred to as boxercise—to one-on-one sparring with leather gloves. "Some programs are more aerobic based, some more boxing based," explains Suzanne Anka, an executive director of the Canadian Aerobic instructors Network in Oakville, Ont. In Vancouver, Dale Walters has set up



Walters (right) with client Ben DeLud, doubling his game speed.

shop as an athletic club located in the heart of the city's business district. In a bright, mirrored room filled with heavy bags and a quadruphonic sound system, Walters jets clients through training sessions similar to the ones that helped him win a bronze medal at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Although Walters is best known for his work with rock stars and hockey players—including Glen Goffard of the Vancouver Canucks—the program has received an overwhelming response from the corporate community. "I get a lot of people looking for a way to take their conditioning to the next level," says Walters.

The key to any successful fitness trend, according to Maier, is variety. "If you keep people interested, they will stick with the program," Susan Mah, a Toronto-based en-

traine and fitness consultant, adds that standard aerobics classes have lost some of their appeal after years of popularity. "It's so great to find a fresh and unique way to challenge the muscle fibers," she says. Most boxing and boxing-type programs in corporate training elements such as slugging the use of heavy bags and so-called job bags, and sparring sessions with an instructor. Rob Doon, a Toronto freelance instructor, even draws on his knees back-ground by adding kicking to his classes. The trend is a diverse and thorough combining of virtually every major body part, along with an intense cardiovascular workout.

Boxing enthusiasts are similarly unanimous in one reaction: "It is one of the most rigorous workouts I have ever experienced," says Jeff Bohan, 33, an assistant manager with a life insurance company in Winnipeg. "After an hour and a half of about punching," Bohan says, "I feel like I've sweated off pounds."

Doon says that, unlike in standard aerobics sessions, he can teach only a few boxing classes per day because each workout is "incredibly exhausting."

The effects of a quality boxing program may also extend beyond the realm of the physical. Erica Cooper, 25, an office manager with a Vancouver law firm, says that although self-defense was not the primary reason she took up boxing, she does feel a greater sense of self-confidence. "At first I felt, 'I'm a chick and 100 lb. I can't do all the help I can get,'" says Cooper.

Ruth Venterback, a Halifax representative of the Canadian Aerobic Instructors Network, says most boxing programs give participants a sense of empowerment. "Most people don't know their own power they possess until they find themselves in an aggressive situation," she explains. "Boxing is a fun way to bring out that power."

Although an appeal differs from person to person, as a fitness trend boxing shows no signs of retreating to its corner for a time being. With its growing presence in aerobics clubs, athletic centers and upscale fitness centers across the country, boxing programs seem to be hitting the corporate scene of a demographic group that previously shied from the title interest in the sport. "Let's face it," says Leslie Ross, 32, a corporate lawyer from Vancouver, "if it was in some dingy gym with pictures of Rocky taped to the wall I probably wouldn't be doing this." But Maier, Ross says there are few things more satisfying after a cranking day at the office than promuffing a heavy leather bag.

JOHN CRAIG in Vancouver

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Sample

Tall ships
and tennis,
plus a hefty
slice of
medieval
life

July 26-Aug 4 Vancouver Chamber Music Festival
Some of the world's leading young instrumentalists perform music ranging from baroque to contemporary.

Age: 7-17 **Honors Arts Festival, West Vancouver:** A free showcase for visual, musical, dance and theatre arts, and crafts in waterfront parks and storefronts, and featuring more than 300 local artists, musicians and dancers.

July 20-29 Klondike Days, Edmonton
The city re-creates the gold-rush days of the 1890s with a parade, a King of the Klondike competition, raft races and bathtub races.

Aug. 12-20 International Native Arts Festival, Calgary Performances by native dancers and musicians will be held in the Glenbow Museum and in tents erected along the Stephen Avenue Mall. Spectators are also welcome to attend workshops on drum-making, art symbolism and native culture.

Aug. 4-12 Fringe Festival, Soulstein
More than 70 international companies on nine stages, accompanied by street dancers, buskers and a craft fair

MANITOBA
Aug. 4-19 Faldsworth, Winnipeg. An annual celebration of the city's ethnic diversity, with 34 pavilions showcasing the

Aug. 6-19 Foldoveron, Winnipeg. An annual celebration of the city's ethnic diversity, with 34 pavilions showcasing the



**Symphony of
Fine display
in Toronto:
light and sound**

A BLOOMING BUSINESS

For centuries, fireworks have provided a crowd-pleasing finale to all kinds of celebrations, from royal weddings to national days. Roman candles and rockets exploded over St. Louis on July 1, 1807, and they have remained a tradition of American summers ever since. But the idea of a fireworks display simply for its own sake is a relatively recent. So the notion of trying to synchronize the pyrotechnics with a musical sound track. George Frideric Handel composed *Music for the Royal Fireworks* in 1749 to mark the peace treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, but that collaboration turned into a fiasco when a quail among the staff resulted in the premature explosion of the ground of most of the shots.

In 1955, musical fireworks came to Montreal with the first Symphony of Fire international fireworks competition. Sponsored by the Benson & Hedges tobacco company, the Symphony has proved enormously popular, expanding to Vancouver and Toronto and attracting a combined six million spectators in 1994. In the competi-

sons, green manufacturers representing their home countries each present an evening's 20-minute display before combining their talents in a grand finale. Judges evaluate the productions for color, depth, synchronization of sound and sight, and what is known as the display's "architecture"—how it looks at low, medium and high altitudes. In Vancouver, where the competition opens July 29, the contestants are Portugal, Italy (last year's winner and home to the oldest fireworks tradition in the West) and China, where pyrotechnics originated more than 1,000 years ago.

Safety features also have improved significantly since Handel's day. The massive 500-foot large (that serves as a firing base) is covered with 90,000 tons of sand and anchored hundreds of feet offshore. Electric fuses, not open flames, ignite the rockets. And the technicians are safely ensconced in a reinforced bunker. As long as they can refrain from arguing among themselves, the show goes on.

music, crafts and foods
of other countries

July 14-22 Ottawa International Jazz Festival Music ranging from traditional to avant-garde is offered outdoors and in the National Arts Centre. There will also be



Symptoms:
Montreal hosts
some of the best
world-class food.

Aug 4-5 Annual Highland Games
Lord Selkirk Provincial Park, Edenburg. Piping, dancing and traditional athletics competitions, complemented by concerts and jester-magicians.

Airtime: 55 Four Corners. A fleet of tall ships for and berth along the coast of seven Atlantic. Members of the public the ship.

July 21/24 Maritime 55 Four Centuries of Sail, Fables. A fleet of tall ships will sail the harbor and berth along the waterfront on the first of seven Atlantic Canada port calls. Members of the public are invited to tour the ships.

Aug. 2 Royal St. John's Regatta, North America's oldest summer sporting event, held at Quash Viedt Lake annually since 1836. As many as 50,000 spectators are expected to cheer on 700 participants in hard-seat racing races.

July 21-23 Dawson City Music Festival Under the auspices of satirical singer Nancy Witte, the 17th annual showcase of acts from across North America ranges from P.E.I. singer Larry Gallant to Yoko Ono, an alternative jazz singer from Vancouver.

July 21-23 Folk on the Rocks, Yel lowstone: A handful of southern performers join a truly eclectic group of northern musicians, including built-in crowd-pleasers, accordion player Johnny (Battens) Marioneta and the Sons of Thunder, a heavy metal group that performs songs in Dogrib.

A sampling of upcoming diversions

Waterworld: Kevin Costner's reputation will sink or swim on the tide of this blasted epic about a flooded planet.

Something to Talk About Julia Roberts plays the headstrong wife of an adulterous husband (Dennis Quaid).

Before Sunrise Wonderful chemistry between Julie Delpy and Ethan Hawke in a tale of two fra-



Canada Jessica Tandy gives her final performance in a Canadian piece of comic whoddy

My Times: Living with History 1947-1994 Peere Borter (Doubleday). The author recalls his tumultuous decades as a journalist and broadcaster.

City Life: Urban Expectations in a New World Wojciech Rybczynski (HarperCollins). The renowned Canadian architectural writer offers cosmopolitan commentary.

www.metacritic.com

Garden Words, Two Centuries of Canadian Garden Writing (Edwina von Baeyer and Pessance Crawford, editors) (Random House) An anthology celebrating the country's intrepid gardeners among contemporary voices with older material, including a diary from 1722. **The Great Famine: The High Wine Life of William Hart Shaw** (Peacock/Penguin) The biography of a 19th-century Canadian adventurer, showman and inventor.

Tower of Song: The Songs of Leonard Cohen (J&M), Peter Gabriel, Billy Joel, Joan Arden.

The Medieval Experience Various artists (Polygram). Ancient music is enjoying renewed popularity,



1

Hot House Bruce Hornsby (J&R). The musician-songwriter recruits some stellar colleagues—including Jerry Garcia and Pat Metheny—for his latest jazz-folk take on America.

CHANNELLING TALENT

Cook relaxing, an finger part in the background

Canadian (Toronto) guitarist Jesse Cook has experienced firsthand the power of television. Over the past 11 years, he has earned a solid reputation composing and performing music for such diverse clients as the *Norcross* Director

and The Toronto-based Cook, 36, says that being in the spotlight is a new experience for him. "I am overwhelmed that someone I don't know—who isn't family or a friend—would actually go out and buy my CD."

ADVENTURES IN WRITING BOOKS

William Diehl is living such a colorful life that it belongs in a work of fiction. When he was a young child, *Max West* was one of his favorites. Later he became an official photographer for *Norman Luther King*, and his work as a photographer brought him into contact with influential and mysterious. But in 1975, on his 50th birthday, Diehl decided that it was time to do something he had always dreamed of doing—write a novel. "I thought time was running out," he said about his first foray into fiction. That book, *Shady's Mountain*, quickly became both a best seller and a hit movie starring *Burt Reynolds*. Now 20 years later, the Georgia-based Diehl has just released his seventh novel, *Shore of Evil*, a psychological thriller. "Writing books is always an adventure for me," says Diehl, who, unlike many authors, does not sketch out his plots in advance. Diehl says, "The characters might just turn around and do something that I didn't expect and shoot the hell out of me."

MAKING EVERY DAY MAGICAL

Born with a silver spoon, *Field Banks* often banters from that life far from home. She found her second citizen's novel, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, an homage to the youngest of her three sons. One, after he asked why she had given him an old wooden cupboard for a birthday present. In the 1981 book—and the movie version (opens) this week—the young protagonist, Orr (Taymair) and his friend, discovers that a three-year-old Indian he placed in the cupboard has come magically to life. The London-born Banks says that it is not surprising she made the boy an Indian rather than something more typically English such as a knight or a prince. From ages 10 to 15, she lived in Scotland as a "war guest" during the Sec-



ond World War. "It was the heyday of the big Hollywood westerns, and I was always on the side of the Indians," says Banks, who recently returned to Saskatchewan for the first time in 50 years for a reunion at *Nelson College* high school. "But my kids were brought up in Israel and Berlin, so they had no idea about the West. I made up the stories to teach them." From the mouth of moms

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BEING SEEN AND HEARD

Although he has become a celebrity through his role as Det. Muldoon Lewis in the *Examiner* award-winning drama *Homebody: Life on the Street*, Clark Johnson still enjoys working behind the scenes. Johnson, in his fourth season on the NBC series, spent his



Johnson: getting paid to blow things up on-screen
as

summer break filming the action-adventure movie *Nick of Time*, with *Johnny Depp* Johnson, 40, also worked as a special-effects expert on several recent films, including *Lethal Weapon 3*. "I know that people think that when you get some success on screen, you are supposed to stop doing crew stuff," says Johnson. "But the way I look at it, I don't get to blow things up as an actor. In special effects, they pay me for it."

Edited by
BARBARA WICKENS

A novel of ideas

An actor hams it up as prime minister

THE AGE OF IMPROV

by Arif Soliman, 269 pages \$20

Arif Soliman is the sort of writer who gives intellectuals a good name. Best known recently for his regular columns in *The Globe and Mail*, he is one of the few opinion writers in the country who sounds as though he is actually thinking as he writes. Certainly, he has his biases (left-wing, nationalist, humanist), but he is there from many of his colleagues of the easy rhetoric and preaching that so often go with an ideological position. Soliman writes novels, too, and they tend to share the searching thoughtful-ness of his columns. His first, *A Man of Little Faith*, won the 1986 W. H. Smith/Maple in Canada Novel Award. Now, in his first realistic second novel, *The Age of Improv*, Soliman focuses his attention on one of his favourite topics: the relationship between politics and the Canadian public.

It has to be said that Soliman is not a natural novelist. He can stretch in a character well enough—but he then has difficulty giving it a life of its own. And *The Age of Improv* has a plot that reads like overcooked sociology. Indeed, it is less a novel than a series of little essays in conversation with one another.

But, for all that, the book is packed with insight, humor and a peculiar quality of intellectual playfulness that becomes almost a character in its own right.

The Age of Improv tells the story of a man, disappeared actor Matthew Deane, and his unlikely adventures in politics. Unlike another actor-politician, Ronald Reagan, who as president of the United States was said to have difficulty grasping the finer points of policy, Matthew is smart. But—again unlike Reagan—Matthew is far from certain about what he believes in. He has found that the wrong politics of his youth are no longer much help in understanding the disintegrating world of the early 21st century. Canada is on the brink of dissolution. Several confederations have failed, and Quebec has all but left. Meanwhile,



Soliman: despair about whether politics can accomplish anything

the federal government has become increasingly ineffective: since the free-trade deals of the Mulroney era, it has lost much of its power to multinational trade blocs and corporations. As well, the health-care system has collapsed and the national debt is still rising.

When Matthew runs for Parliament, he writes an original note by refusing to talk about politics. Instead, drawing on his experiences in the houses and Senates as an oppositional actor, he rambles on thoughtfully about his own life. With the help of a new-age TV station owner friend, it would seem, an *Access* stationer of Toronto CityTV and MuchMusic, he redebuts his performance and broadcasts them nationally. A paled public responds enthusiastically to his apparent candor. Under a new system of quo-

te-proportional representation, Matthew ends up controlling more seats and the balance of power in the new Parliament. Not long after, the usual horse-trading of compromise politics makes him prime minister.

Matthew's preposterous career allows Soliman to skillfully balance his vision between satire and realism. At times, Matthew seems a deeply concerned citizen—and at others a humorous caricature who as yet denotes his first cabinet meeting to discussing which pictures will hang on the wall. These two aspects of Matthew help Soliman to express both his own position about the importance of politics and his despair about whether, within the current framework, anything of importance can be accomplished. Certainly, Matthew manages to do very little as prime minister: he does build a reform there with a quantum so philosophically complicated (in human solidarity the basis of our behavior towards each other?) that many voters spot their holes by snubbing successes as there is no sense, this simply makes him all irrelevant. But the scenario also allows Soliman to put forward one of his principal points: that people are happy far a true political life that would allow them to shape the conditions of their society.

The Age of Improv itself feels like an improvisation—a rapid trawling out of various ideas. Soliman tries to introduce characters whose obsessions allow him to explore topics of interest—love, the nature of acting, the meaning of public opinion—but often he drops these figures when his intellectual interest fades. This makes for a rather broken narrative, and even characters such as Matthew's daughter Dori, whose death from an AIDS-like illness is supposed to bring a certain human pathos to the story, barely leave an impression.

No improvisation can be any better than the culture from which it springs. If *The Age of Improv* lacks a certain unity, perhaps it is only reflecting the fractured nature of the times. Even so, a few of its theories do persist more strongly than others. One is Soliman's concern that Canada's tradition of collective action is responsible for its decline; the CSC and so on is being destroyed by the triumph of American-style capitalist individualism. In the novel, this danger is discounted by his vision plan to take over Canada as a life to piece. What an irony, then, that *The Age of Improv* was produced and based in the United States. Soliman should write a column about that.

JERRY HEDRIDGE

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BOOKS



Leahow with wife Emily and daughters Emily (left) and Mirale, family values

hood, yet retain access to the resources and freedoms of childhood."

The first, and central, step in becoming an adult is recognizing the old parent-child relationship and its attendant baggage of both dependency and hostility. "One of the subtlest and most persistent forms of dependency is the hoarding of old complaints," writes Leahow. "By keeping track of the ways our parents have failed us, we hope that we'll be able to revenge them for it sometime in the future." Then, if they can't make us happy when we present them with the bill, they will at least feel properly remorseful. "An other must abandon the obsessive notion of self more happiness. We will never recapture the state of bliss that we felt as teenagers, when we were very, very young," Leahow contends. "It is this painful realization—the collision of fantasy and reality—that precipitates the crisis of pre-adulthood."

Time to grow up

LOVE, PAIN AND THE WHOLE DAMN THING: HOW TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF ADULTHOOD AND FIND REAL HAPPINESS

By David Leahow
(Farrar, Straus, 302 pages, \$28.95)

In the 1980s, the decade of intelligence, pop psychologists urged men and women to search for the "inner child" that covered within. Lighten up, they said, and reap the rewards of innocence, rather lost or never acquired in its proper time.

This prompted, a generation of adults armed with credit cards nagged its way to decadence, deflated and deflated car payments. It is now the sobering 1990s, and—ironically for those whose childhood never self-proved to be more elaborate than cartoon—there is a sensible Toronto psychiatrist David Leahow. In a timely how-to guide, *Love, Pain and the Whole Damn Thing*, Leahow argues that it is time to be, or at least strive to be, an adult—to solve these problems, to act your age. "There's an easy way to do it, and a hard way," he writes. "Living as adults—and feeling like one—is the easy way."

A totalizing concept, adulthood. To many embattled post-adolescents, the central ideal notion is in action by bookends: when they're young with a shocking array of self-help tomes encouraging childhood withdrawal. But the 40-year-old, Manhattan-based psychologist has looked onto a transatlantic movie star. Although experts have produced a deluge of material on childhood and adolescence, the transition to adulthood—adult

hood—has been less than a walk. Meanwhile, the author seems to have been unsure whether to target the book at his psychiatric peers or at the general public. The dilemma is evident in Leahow's ramblings from day to day observations to colorful anecdotes and, occasionally, by wit. But the thread of Leahow's argument mostly unravels. The wisest people become, he argues, the best like they are to be blown about. Like a raft in the ocean, by amphetamines and opiates. "Coziness is never better," he writes, "being able does not make life better, it makes life manageable."

The reward is apparently worth the effort. Adulthood is the reward. To Leahow, it is a good call. Growing—like that

may happen "in a crystalline moment of self-awareness—when a person goes from feeling like a kid to feeling like an adult." Then, just as when you learned to ride a bicycle, the unpleasant feelings of turbulence and uncertainty you felt beforehand give way to a reassuring feeling of balance and competence," he writes. Leahow's own account came about in 1980 after an exhausting week of treating 60 patients. "I was not to discover and I felt almost about putting in a full week, at doing what I termed 'it,' he says. "I knew right away that I had made a choice." And since then, Leahow's advice, no matter how good, can ever go back.

Singing the praises of adulthood

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E. KAYE PETERSON

Damsels and distress

In three movies, men chase a mother, a creature and a queen

NINE MONTHS

Directed by Chris Columbus

High Grant has built his career on nervous charms. He comes across as a hapless schoolboy with an ever-on-defensive disposition. And there's nothing he does better than express embarrassment. In *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, he was knee-deep when reduced to a state of staggering apologetic humiliation. After Grant's recent arrival in Los Angeles for his part in a car with a hacker, you can just picture him trying to explain himself to his girlfriend, model Elizabeth Hurley. While watching *Nine Months*, it's hard not to imagine that encounter.

Not even Woody Allen's *Handmade and Haven* has a film had such more resonance with a scenario surrounding its star. In *Nine Months*, Grant plays Samuel, a man who has everything—a red Porsche, a lovely San Francisco home and a no

mother that has sided again smoothly for five years. But Samuel has a chronic fear of commitment. When his girlfriend, Rebecca (Julianne Moore), announces that she's pregnant, he panics—and his childish behavior prompts her to leave him. Trying to win her back, Samuel pleads for forgiveness. "Two babies won't be the most important thing in my life just like this," he says. "It was a disgrace—I now know what a bastard I was." No kidding.

Inevitably, the film-artistry of Grant's role seems secure: It's his, but they are worn displaced by belly laughs. The movie was written and directed by Hollywood's Chris Columbus, the maker of *Mrs. Doubtfire* and the *Home Alone* comedies. This is a filmmaker who loves to push all the right buttons. Remaking *Nine Months* from the French film *Nin' Nue* (1996), he has created a fully loaded romantic Hollywood farce. Going through wild mood swings, no traumatic narrative grows from romantic comedy to comic comedy to fist-out slapstick all the way to an amiable woe of sentiment.

Curious though it may be, *Nine Months* delivers it. In his great comic performance, punching the wall out of Grant's British reserve in Tom Arnold, who plays an ebullient car dealer named Mary, the father of three bewailing children. His role (Joan Cusack), who is expecting a fourth, becomes Rebecca's ally in pregnancy. Jeff Goldblum is wonderfully dull as Samuel's best friend, a bachelor artist. And Helen Mirren, perfectly, steals the picture as an obstetrician from L.A., a Russian emigre who has only delivered animals.

There is a clear division of labor among the cast: the men kick around the comedy, the women sustain the drama. For most of the film, Moore and Cusack play it straight, deferring motherhood, while the men act like pugs. In the double-childbirth scene that serves as the movie's climax, however, everyone goes giddy over the top. It begins with a *Shuttle*-like car ride through San Francisco. And by the time the crew reaches the hospital, *Nine Months* has turned into *Carry On Doctor*. What is remarkable is how Columbus sequences both scenes: groups dance and innuendo-driven out of the same scene—a miracle of birth indeed.

Like High Grant, *Nine Months* takes its share of dumb detours. When the movie gets serious, a certain comic factor sets in. This is, after all, a romantic comedy about a hero who falls in love—not with his wife, but with his unborn child. Yet once the comedy takes off, *Nine Months* has an irresistible charm.

SPENSER

Directed by Roger Donaldson

In *Nine Months*, Hugh Grant's character dreams that his pregnant mate turns into a giant praying mantis and devours him in bed. *Spenser* makes that fantasy—the make love of the provocative female—so a literal level. It is a swift thriller about an alien predator who takes the form of a strange blood-sucking *Sil* (Olivieya Dandridge, a 28-year-old Indian model born in Newfoundland and raised in Alberta). *Sil* is a creature, created by scientists who introduced some DNA from outer space into a human ovum. They made her female, hoping she would be more

docile. Fit choice: *Sil* escapes and grows up to be a Terminator with a French kiss that can leave a hole in a man's head. Her frustration is the creator (John Kingsley) assembles a team to hunt her down—including an ex-Marine (Michael Madson), a psychic (Forest Whitaker) and an anthropologist (Alfred Molina). On the loose in Los Angeles, *Sil* is down to earth, and discovers that being her human speeds up the process. She is a demon, but she turns into a hideous creature faster than you can say "computer morphing." It is fun for a while. Australian director John Donaldson delivers some good jobs, and jokes. But a weak script leaves the strong lead floundering. And as the story degenerates into its ridiculous kid-like-furth climax, *Spenser* proves to be a retrograde experiment in the evolution of the genre.



Canney and Gervin King and a knight fight for the queen's love

FIRST KNIGHT

Directed by Jerry Zucker

It is the latest entry in the swartzer tournament of broadsword epics, after the killed overkill of *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart*. And it is by the far the best. *First Knight* is actually based on the love of King Arthur and his Round Table. The film-makers, however, have gained the original legend and removed Camelot to the point where it is barely recognizable.

The movie's Lancelot (Richard Gere) is not even a knight; when he meets Queen Guinevere (Julia Ormonde), he is a virgin-born nature boy,

a nature who recovers the forest and lives by his wit. Like some medieval Dorian, he keeps popping out of the bushes to rescue Guinevere from marauding bad guys. What impresses her most is a trick that he does with a tree, channeling rain water through a hole of leaves directly into her mouth. This Lancelot is like *Shin* on a white charger, a ferret-like knight for the 1990s. Once he finally does get the Round Table, he never seems comfortable in the shining armor.

As King Arthur, a truly Sean Connery provides over his Canney, which serves as delectable and contemporary as a Disney theme park. Strangely, there is no mention of Merlin. Painted over and blue, the circle is a spectacular sight, but a little vibrant for the sixth century—let's say through the film's computer graphics team could not stop being the "narrow" command. The knights' chainmail costumes creep up visions of *Star Trek*, and Arthur's model Round Table does not look out of place on the bridge of the Enterprise. At its core, there's an eternal theme, suggesting that First Knight's liberal-democratic Camelot owes as much to the Kennedy legacy as to the Arthurian legend. All of this backward-looking mythology would be knowable if the movie worked. But film-maker Jerry Zucker (Zucker directs in a plucking, pretentious style). The knight battle scenes are a confusion of categories. The films, a dark knight named Malagut (Ben Cross) who lives in a kind of hot one, is a business hero. Gere, acting with a mechanical mind of an accountant, suddenly switches through his scenes. Canney looks as if he would rather be somewhere else. As Guinevere, a current icon between her knight and her love, Ormonde (*Lovers of the Fall*) gives the movie's one agreed performance. Meanwhile, the 11-year-old Sir John Gielgud is briefly carried out for no apparent reason—although, in this erratic epic, his title serves as the only connection to true length.

BRAND B. JOHNSON



Moore (left), Grant: amuse resonance with the actor's secret

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Taking Canada for a musical ride

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

One should not be surprised at the Musicals. The only thing oddity—surprising was the lack of outrage from Canadians. Canadians have run out of outrage, sort of like when you look in the mirror and find you've run out of butter.

Life always makes art. It's been decades since Dave Broadbent of the Royal Canadian Air Force invented Sgt. Brewster of the Air for his radio plays and stage acts. Canadians loved it, since they owned the Musicals and didn't need a fellow Canadian cradling the reins at home.

Now the businesses, surpassing even Broadbent's antic wit, have gone one further by willing not only their stage but their soul to the stage-makers of the United States of America.

Who will play God? The RCMP commissioner who approved the violent to Disney? Who will play Dopey? The Queen's owner who allowed it? There is no Snow White, but, true to me, she'll show up soon on the Musical Road as the new symbol.

In 1975 Pierre Berton wrote Holmwood's Canada, a hilarious (if welcome) account of how the movie industry depicted us to the world. As the philosopher said, to those who feel, the world is a tragedy; to those who think it's comedy.

It was full of error, of the passionate French-Canadian in leather-junk skins from the 19th century, 1960s costumes of the group kids at high school. Of the weird ball breed. Of madness with leopards because that almost escaped their crisp business. How Rudolph Scott saved the Northwest.

Berton tells us the astonishing fact that through 1990 and the time he wrote his book, Hollywood produced 375 films in which the plot had been an entirely or mainly in Canada. The first shot of Nelson Eddy in *Rose Marie*, supposedly in the woods of northern Quebec, showed him leaning a body of singing Musicals against a range of white-capped peaks.

It was an he wrote, the gospel according



to Cecil B. DeMille and Louis B. Mayer always goes on. There is a whole chapter on Musicals in the movies, mostly with dumb men that didn't fit and gradually who looked even stupider. Then Dave Broadbent's stage cartoonist.

The reason for the lack of Canadian reaction to the Disney disgrace (the country's cartoonists being the only ones killed with glory) is, one suspects, that we have become scared to speak.

It has already been established that there is not a Canadian bright enough to run *Air Canada*, a chap from Georgia whose U.S. airline had gone into bankruptcy having been recruited for the job. There is not a Canadian talented enough to run *The Globe and Mail*, the country's national newspaper—the owner's initial recruiting a Yankee.

The Art Gallery of Ontario has just hired

an American to its new job. While the dirt vacated by another American, Canadian Air-brain, for its commercial, hired a Island American back street, as we know, there are no talented Canadian actors. To apologize for insensitive Toronto's Lester B. Pearson Airport, named in honor of the statesman who was the Nobel Peace Prize, hired an American cartoonist to paint huge funny posters Canada as we know being benefit of my cartoonists or artists of merit.

Canadians being brave enough, put up with this without a whimper. Why did the Canada go across the road? To get to the middle. A Canadian is someone who says thank you to bank machines. We all know the jokes. The cost that they are out jokes.

What they are is acceptance. The supposedly socialist government of British Columbia, full of the officials that goes back through Tommy Douglas to Woodsworth and Frank Scott and the rest, has been revealed as having a Washington consultant to advise—by phone and fax—on how to conduct its affairs.

Nothing surprises any more. The Canadian Senate (or, someone) Revolution of Mike Harris in Ontario has been revealed as being guided to its election victory by a Republican run-back from Baltimore whose previous client was Ollie North and who ran around Toronto bars with a laughing bomber jacket that landed on the back his political customers—excluding "The Rt Hon. Michael Harris," the American knowledge of Canadian politics being somewhat unsure.

Nothing surprises. The apparently confused CRTC, which used to hand the nation like the CRTC, is now run by the forgettable Pierre Berton, who got the job only because

Jean Chrétien's first choices landed in his face at the office. The CRTC has just the American flag on one of its signs. No one, not even in Brockville, changed on the day.

The only Canadian in *Forbes* magazine's top 10 publishers in the world, Ken Thomson, has announced he is selling off all those boring small-town newspapers that made his father his fortune, and is going to concentrate on American adventures in the newspaper. American newspapers and TV stations, however, in the right to know, proceed to print and broadcast the facts of the Bernhardt case while the Canadian public refuses to back up the Canadian media's attempts to appeal the court-ordered ownership of the truth.

This is the Canadian way. The Quebec Chamber of Commerce dry has been a client. The country has given up. The Musicals and Disney? Canada always

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